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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Sharon open to peace talks: Israel signaled flexibility and openness toward the emerging new Palestinian leadership Friday, with a top adviser to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon saying peace talks could resume if the Palestinians showed some good will.

The adviser, Ranan Gissin, spoke a day after Sharon indicated he is dropping a key demand for resuming peace talks — a Palestinian crackdown on militant groups. Sharon said that while he still wants the armed groups dismantled at some point, he now considers Palestinian efforts to stop incitement against Israel a sufficient first step. Palestinians have refused to confront the militants, saying they fear civil war.

Accused Danish lawmaker: A former Copenhagen lawmaker suspected of sexually abusing a teenager said in interviews published Friday that he was not ashamed of his actions, claiming the 13-year-old boy told him he was old enough to have sexual relations.

Flemming Oppfeldt, who was released from custody Thursday after a month in jail, told the Ekstra Bladet and B.T. daily tabloids that he was "sorry that an underage [boy] has been involved in this."

Oppfeldt claimed the teenager he is suspected of sexually abusing told him he was 15 — the legal age of consent in Denmark. But prosecutors, and the boy's family, contend the unidentified boy was just 13.

War on terrorism

Military review tribunal: An alleged member of a group with purported ties to the al-Qaida terror network was among four prisoners who appeared Thursday before U.S. military review tribunals in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The 31-year-old man was accused of receiving weapons training in Afghanistan in 2001, said Navy Lt. Gary Ross, a spokesman for the Combatant Status Review Tribunals.

The man allegedly belonged to a Uighur group linked to al-Qaida and the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, another organization the United States says supports terrorism.

States

Bonfire tragedy: Before it was set to be dedicated with speeches and formality, the memorial built to honor the victims of Texas A&M University's deadly bonfire collapse was the site of a more intimate and silent ceremony.

Hundreds gathered at 2:42 a.m. Thursday — the exact time of the collapse — on the



Disney labor dispute: Disney World worker Nayibe Pizani drops her ballot in the ballot box in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., on Thursday. Members of Walt Disney World's largest union, representing 40 percent of the resort's 51,000-person work force, approved a three-year contract proposal as the current contract was set to expire.

grassy field where 12 Aggies were killed and 27 others were injured five years ago.

Sex toy lawsuit: Renee Koutsouradis was on a Delta Air Lines jet awaiting takeoff from Dallas when her name was called over the loudspeaker and she was pulled from the plane.

Something was buzzing in her luggage. When taken to the taxiway, she told a Delta security agent that the buzzing was likely coming from a sex toy she and her husband had just bought during their trip to Las Vegas.

Koutsouradis, 38, says she was then ordered to remove the toy, hold it up and remove its batteries in full view of some other passengers on her flight. She claims a baggage handler then licked his lips and made sexually inappropriate comments as other Delta employees laughed.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments Friday in Jacksonville, Fla. in the lawsuit Koutsouradis filed against Delta over the February 2002 incident.

Bay of Pigs lawsuit: A woman who sued the Cuban government over the death of her father during the Bay of Pigs invasion was

awarded \$86.5 million on Thursday by a Miami-Dade circuit court judge.

Thomas Willard "Pete" Ray, an Alabama Air National Guard pilot on a mission for the CIA, was executed in Cuba in April 1961. His body was kept in a Havana morgue for 18 years before the Cuban government sent it home.

Ray's daughter, Janet Ray Weininger, filed her wrongful death suit against Cuba by using a federal law that allows victims of terrorism to collect damages from states that sponsor it.

WWII vet charged: Police are recommending a criminal charge against a World War II veteran who allegedly backed a van over his friend and killed him during a Veterans Day parade.

William Hammond, captain of the parade's color guard, was preparing to march with fellow veterans Nov. 11 when he was struck by a van driven by Joseph Davis, 80, Hammond, also 80 and a World War II veteran, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police are seeking a charge of motor vehicle homicide by neglect, which carries a maximum sentence of 2½ years in jail.

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Purple Heart recipient thankful to be alive

After surviving rocket attack in Iraq, Yokota airman has had 10 operations

By VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — On June 16, Debbie Murphy's worst fears nearly became a reality.

Around 10:30 that night, the wife of Senior Airman Kevin Murphy — a 374th Civil Engineer Squadron member who'd left for Iraq about three weeks earlier — glanced through the peephole of her front door and saw Lt. Col. Martin Gramum, Murphy's Yokota commander, and Master Sgt. Steven Oakes, the unit's acting first sergeant. Both were wearing their dress-blue uniforms.

"It was pretty scary. I immediately thought the worst," she recalled. "I was already crying before I opened the door."

They immediately said her husband was OK, but that he'd been injured earlier that day in a rocket attack

near the post exchange at Balad Air Base, Iraq. Before departing the residence, Gramum and Oakes left Debbie Murphy with a note reiterating the message that her husband was stable and under the care of U.S. medical personnel.

"But I didn't sleep any that night," said Debbie Murphy, who was pregnant at the time. "I wanted to bear his child. I wanted to guide him through his injuries until I actually spoke with him on the phone. The call finally came at 4:30 in the morning."

He had shrapnel wounds to his legs, calves, back and chest but sounded more worried about her. She learned that three servicemen had died in the attack, including one who had been in Iraq for a year and was slated to return home the next day.

Since that day, Kevin Murphy, 28, has undergone 10 surgical procedures and months of painful rehabilitation. Last week, he received the Purple Heart in a standing-room-only ceremony at the Yokota Enlisted Club attended by more than 400 people.

"It was nice to have so many people come out, and it's an honor to receive an award like that," Murphy said. "It's also a blessing to be alive."

Col. Mark Schissler, the 374th Airlift Wing commander, made the presentation.

"Airman Murphy is a quiet and humble man who's made uncomfortable by the at-

tention we pay him today," Schissler said, "but he's representative of the thousands like him who serve our country so well every day."

"Kevin and his fellow airmen understood the risks and the dangers of military service when they raised their hands and swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution. There is no higher calling in life, and America is better for the sacrifice they make."

On May 24, Murphy left Yokota for his first deployment to the Middle East. A heating, ventilation and air-conditioning specialist, he was serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom with Balad's 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, filling an integral role installing, maintaining and repairing much-needed air-conditioning units as troops battled 120-degree temperatures in the desert.

On the day of the attack, he was performing maintenance on a ventilation system outside the Balad exchange. Other members of his team had gone inside, with shoppers coming in and out of the facility.

In an instant, Murphy heard the sound of enemy mortar rounds, which tore holes in buildings and obliterated parked cars. Hot, burning metal pierced his body.

"They just landed and exploded. There were no shots or anything," Murphy didn't hear any. It happened really fast," he said.

"I was knocked down to one arm. I got up and basically ran. I just got out of there. I actually didn't know where I was running to. I was in shock. It was all moving so fast."

After the dust cleared, Murphy was taken to the Balad Air Base hospital, where doctors began the process of removing shrapnel. The next morning, he was flown to the U.S. military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany.

That's when he realized just how badly he was hurt.

"I thought I had a few bumps and bruises," he says. "I didn't know it was so severe. I thought I had a little scratch, then I saw the bandages they were taking off and putting on."

"They tried to get me up to walk, but it was pretty hard moving around. That's when the pain hit."

Murphy spent about three days in Germany, and after two more surgeries, he



PATRICK MITCHELL/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Col. Mark Schissler, the 374th Airlift Wing commander, places a Purple Heart on the uniform of Senior Airman Kevin Murphy, 374th Civil Engineer Squadron, last week at Yokota Air Base, Japan. Murphy was injured in a rocket attack in Balad, Iraq, in June.

was transferred to Wilford Hall Hospital at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, on June 22. During a monthlong stay, two skin grafts were performed on his right leg.

"That's the worst pain I've ever felt in my life," he said. "It's like they took a cheese grater and sliced off a layer of skin from my left leg to place it on the right. It felt like sliding into third base with your bare leg and ripping that top layer of skin off."

"Prior to that, I'd actually been up and moving a little."

A few days after his arrival, Air Force officials flew Debbie out to Lackland. His father, Michael Taylor, lives in the San Antonio area and also provided support during the recovery.

Murphy remained at Lackland until Sept. 9, making frequent follow-up visits to Wilford Hall as the battle wounds slowly healed.

On Oct. 19 at Yokota, Debbie Murphy gave birth to daughter Amaya.

"It was good to be here to witness it," the airman said. "After the attack, the biggest thing I remember is being scared, worried about seeing my daughter born. I wanted to be OK to see her."

Since he returned to Japan, Murphy has

continued his physical therapy. More procedures are possible, but he won't undergo any until his reassignment to Lackland in February.

"I still have a few pieces of shrapnel in my body," he said. "I've got a small fracture in my right elbow from where shrapnel went in and chipped it. There are a few pieces in my leg also."

"Right now, I want to hold off until I get back to Wilford Hall. It depends on whether it worsens. They said it might do more damage to take it out than leave it in."

Murphy is back in his HVAC shop at Yokota, mostly working in an administrative capacity, although he has taken part in a few outside jobs. The ordinal certainly has offered a fresh perspective on life, he says.

"I'm counting my blessings," he added. "I'm being more thankful every day for the chance to be alive."

His wife shares the sentiment.

"We have a new outlook on life, for sure," she said. "It's brought us a lot closer together. I was pretty worried until I physically got to the hospital in San Antonio and saw him. It was very emotional."

"I thank God he's alive, and realize now more than ever how life can be short."

E-mail Vince Little at: littlev@stripes.osd.mil

More DODDS students eligible for free, reduced-price lunches

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — More DODDS students soon could be eating for free at the school cafeteria.

The U.S. government, for the first time in nearly 25 years, has re-evaluated the eligibility for free or reduced-lunch plans in Department of Defense Dependents Schools overseas for military and Defense Department civilian families living on the economy.

The new policy eliminates off-base housing allowance as a part of family income, according to a Department of Defense Education Activity announcement this week.

DODEA officials expect more students to now qualify for free or reduced meals and encourage families to apply or re-apply for the program. Children who currently are eligible for reduced lunches now may be eligible for a free meal, DODEA officials stated.

The Office of the Secretary of Defense and the U.S. Department of Agriculture agreed to the regulation change earlier this year, according to a DODEA statement.

"I just think it's to open up more doors for more kids," said Peter Grenier, DODDS Japan District chief of staff. "It's good for the kids. That's the bottom line."

This fall, lunch prices in the Army and Air Force Exchange Service overseas meal program rose by 10 cents; the increase was the first in nine years, and also was implemented at some Navy bases overseas.

In the Pacific, it's not known how many families will now qualify for free or discounted meals, Grenier said.

The new policy does not affect children of families living in military housing. It also does not apply to pupils attending schools in the United States, Puerto Rico and Guam.

The free or reduced-price lunch program is part of the National School Lunch program, a federally assisted school program operating in more than 99,800 public

nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions, according to DODEA. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to more than 26 million children each school day.

DODEA officials state that families interested in seeing if their eligibility has changed with the new policy should contact the installation representative who normally processes applications for the free and reduced-price school meal program.

For more information on the National School Lunch Program, go to www.fns.usda.gov.

Jessica Inigo contributed to this story.

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LISA BURGESS/Stars and Stripes

USO President Edward Powell Jr., left, and Charles Abell, principal deputy under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, talk after Friday's rollout of the new "America Supports You" program.

Pentagon launches program to show support for troops

By PATRICK DICKSON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has a message for its troops serving in war zones: America Supports You.

That's the name of a new campaign, introduced Friday at the Pentagon by Charlie Abell, principal deputy under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

Abell said the program is designed so that the Department of Defense can "realize what's going on and to be able to tell our soldiers and their families that we support you."

The effort is two-pronged, according to Allison Barber, special assistant to the assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, internal communication/public liaison.

"We're going to go to Americans and say, 'Join our Web site. Tell us what you're doing to support the troops.' The second part is we're going to take the info to the troops."

"We have a myriad of ways to talk to the troops, to provide information, and we're going to use them all," Abell said.

Barber said she also would be attending a taping of Ellen DeGeneres' daytime talk show that will have a segment dedicated to the program, and said the DOD is aggressively pursuing other high-profile shows, such as "Live with Regis and Kelly" and the "Late Show with David Letterman."

Barber said that during visits to Iraq and Afghanistan, Defense officials were hearing service members ask about the sentiments back home.

"Do Americans still support us?" she said the troops were asking. "And of course the answer is yes. You and I see it here, the yell-



low ribbons and all the terrific things folks are doing, but the guys overseas don't see it. We have a communications gap."

The Web site, <http://america.supportsyou.mil>, will be a place where Americans can "join the team," Barber said.

A text block asks you what you've done to support the troops, and when you send the information, it gives you the opportunity to link to Stars and Stripes' Web site, where you can be shipped an "America Supports You" dog tag by providing a shipping address.

There's also a space for Americans to send messages to the troops. One such message was on the new site Friday.

"Despite what you hear or read in the media back home, America thanks you for defending our way of life. We support you and may God bless you, keep you safe and return you home soon," wrote "Jeff" from San Antonio.

Barber cited America's flagging support as the Vietnam War continued as one reason for the campaign.

"In the Sixties, we did not do a good job of separating the war from the warrior. As the war grew unpopular, people started taking it out on the GI," she said.

Abell reiterated that point when he asked if Americans can support the troops without supporting the war.

"I think America can do this easily. If you don't support the war philosophically, you can still support the troops."

E-mail Pat Dickson at: clicksonp@stripes.osd.mil

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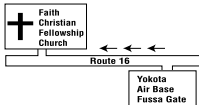
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JPAC leads effort to locate missing in war

HONOLULU — James Coyle, intelligence research director for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command at Hickam Air Force Base here, has spent most of his professional life investigating the whereabouts of hundreds of Americans lost in service to nation.

His commitment to that quest has not flagged in 18 years, he said. But Coyle, 57, defines his motivation more narrowly than would many JPAC colleagues.

"I don't really do it for the families," he said. "I do it for the memory of the people who gave their lives in service to their country."

Those people deserve to have what happened to them found out and reported."

As a historian, linguist and intelligence analyst, Coyle has made dozens of trips, conducted hundreds of interviews, and sifted through mountains of documents to find lost U.S. servicemen.

JPAC leads a \$100-million-a-year effort to gain the full possible accounting of Americans missing from past wars. Half of that is spent by JPAC directly, with 75 cents on every budget dollar going to investigative and recovery missions.

In the last year, JPAC teams

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

visited Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, North and South Korea, Burma, Tibet, New Guinea, Palau, Albania, France and Washington state. The investigative teams seek leads and information. When enough evidence is found, recovery teams return to excavate sites where remains of U.S. servicemen might be found.

The 440-person JPAC was formed in October 2003, by combining the world's most sophisticated forensics facility, the Army's Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI), and Joint Task Force Full Accounting. JTFFA got its start in 1992, a better-funded version of the Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC) begun after the Vietnam War.

CILHI, since its founding 30 years ago, has had a global mandate to identify U.S. remains from all past wars. But most remains came from Southeast Asia because the JCRC mandate was to find the missing from Vietnam.

By 1992, pressure from the families of lost Vietnam veterans help to shape support for a full accounting of missing from all past wars. Creation of JPAC, Coyle said, reinforced that national priority.

Though 1,849 remain are missing from the Vietnam War, that number is small compared to 78,000 never recovered after World War II and 8,100 lost in Korea. Another 120 U.S. servicemen disappeared during the Cold War and one pilot in the first Gulf War.

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 21111, Centerville, VA 20120-1111, e-mail milupdate@aol.com or visit www.militaryupdate.com



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Injured troops fall ill to rare blood infection

By LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Servicemembers injured in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan are coming down with a rare blood infection that is proving very resistant to antibiotics, according to a new report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The report, which was released this week, said that 102 patients at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, and Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington and three other military health care sites were diagnosed with the infection between Jan. 1, 2002, and Aug. 31, 2004.

Of those infections, 83 percent cropped up in servicemembers

who had been wounded while serving in the Iraq and Kuwait region during Operation Iraqi Freedom and in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom, the report said.

Military researchers are concerned because such a large number of these cases is unusual, Navy Capt. Joe Malone, director of the Defense Department's Global Emerging Infections section at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Silver Spring, Md., told Stars and Stripes in a Thursday telephone interview.

The infection, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, is well known to doctors and has shown up in patients hospitalized all over the globe, but it is not especially common, Malone said.

In fact, the organism causes just 1.3 percent of infections reported by hospitals, according to the report.

A. baumannii, as researchers call it for brevity, has two qualities that make it difficult to control its effects.

The first is that the bacteria can live for weeks at a time on hard surfaces such as tables or doorknobs, Malone said.

The second issue is that the organism is resistant to standard antibiotics, making "treatment of infections attributed to *A. baumannii* ... increasingly difficult," the report said.

The report noted, "The importance of infection control during treatment in combat and health-care settings and the need to develop new antimicrobial drugs to treat these infections."

Officials would not comment on symptoms, how they are identified or the severity of the cases.

Now that the cluster of cases

has been identified, the next step is for researchers to determine why so many deployed servicemembers are coming down with the infection, Malone said.

"We're working very hard to investigate why" these members were infected, Malone said.

Military researchers aren't beginning from scratch in their hunt for the source of the problem, however.

During the Vietnam War, the bacteria "was reported to be the most common [bacteria of this class] recovered from traumatic injuries to extremities," the report said.

And since the some of the more recent cases occurred in members with similar injuries, "environmental contamination of wounds" might be a potential source of the infection, the report said.

"Environmental contamination" is the medical term for

some kind of virus or bacteria a person might pick up from wherever he or she is at the time.

But while some of the patients in the report had the infection when they were first admitted to military medical facilities, the report said, researchers still don't know whether the members picked up the bacteria at the time they were wounded, during the evacuation process, or at a military medical facility in the field, the report said.

So while researchers plan to look at whether the military patients picked up the bacteria in the hospital where they were first diagnosed with the infection, the investigation will also include "detailed reviews of geographic locations where injuries occurred and reviews of the movement of injured patients through treatment facilities," the report said.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at:
burgess@stripes.osd.mil

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Raids kill 15 in Iraq; commander says forces likely to increase

By TINI TRAN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi forces, backed by U.S. soldiers, stormed one of the major Sunni Muslim mosques in Baghdad after Friday prayers, opening fire and killing at least three people, witnesses said. In the battle for control of Mosul, Iraqi forces raided several areas overnight, killing 15 insurgents, Iraqi and U.S. military officials said.

At least 13 other insurgents were captured in Mosul, authorities said.

About 40 people were arrested at the Abu

Hanifa mosque in the capital's northwest Azamiyah neighborhood, said the witnesses, who were members of the congregation. Another five people were wounded.

Also on Friday, Lt. Gen. Lance L. Smith, the No. 2 commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East, said commanders in Iraq probably will expand their troops by several thousand as the January elections approach.

He told a Pentagon news conference that no final decisions have been made and that the size of the troop increase will depend in part on whether the insurgency grows or weakens in the aftermath of the Fallujah offensive.

Smith estimated that commanders would ask for about a brigade's worth of extra troops, which would be roughly 5,000. He said that probably would be achieved by keeping some units that were scheduled to serve 10 months in Iraq for an extra two months. He did not name the units.

There now are about 138,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, he said.

"We will make a further assessment as we get a little bit closer" to the elections scheduled for late January, "and as we understand what the impact of Fallujah is on the entire country," he said.

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WORLD

LaPorte: N. Korea may try to sell plutonium

BY TERI WEAVER

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL — The United States' top military commander in South Korea warned Friday that North Korea might market its plutonium to terrorists to bolster the communist country's economy.

"An additional concern the international community shares is that North Korea, in its desire for hard currency, would sell weapons-grade plutonium to some terrorist organizations," Gen. Leon J. LaPorte,

commander of U.S. Forces Korea, told a breakfast forum in Seoul. "And that would be disastrous to the world."

LaPorte said North Korea has the ability to harvest plutonium and is known to sell missile technology throughout the world. "Clearly, they have an opportunity to harvest plutonium from the enrichment rods," LaPorte said. "From a military standpoint, they do have a capability we must address."

LaPorte's concern comes as talks among the United States, North Korea, South

Korea and three other Asian nations to stem North Korea's nuclear ambitions have stalled.

At the same time, America and South Korea have pledged billions of dollars to upgrade defense systems and weaponry in the next few years as the United States pulls 12,500 of its 37,500 troops from the peninsula.

This week, South Korea announced plans to spend \$92.5 billion by 2008 to develop defenses less reliant on American forces. In return, U.S. officials have

pledged \$11 billion toward weapons systems by 2006 to supplement remaining troops on the ground.

The investments include improvements in communication, intelligence and surveillance systems, as well as a weapons system that includes precision-guided missiles, he said.

Earlier this week, U.S. Forces Korea announced LaPorte has agreed to extend his command by one more year through 2006.

E-mail Teri Weaver at: weaver@stpsrps.osd.mil

Diplomats: Iran churning out uranium gas before shutdown

The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Iran is using the last few days before it must stop all uranium enrichment to produce significant quantities of a gas that can be used to make nuclear weapons, diplomats said Friday.

Iran recently started producing uranium hexafluoride at its

gas processing facilities in Isfahan, the diplomats told The Associated Press. When introduced into centrifuges and spun, the substance can be enriched into weapons-grade uranium that forms the core of nuclear warheads.

Iran last week agreed to suspend uranium enrichment and all related activities in a deal worked

out with Britain, France, Germany and the European Union. The deal, which takes effect Monday, prohibits Iran from all uranium gas processing activities.

But the diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Tehran was exploiting the window until Monday to produce uranium hexafluoride at its Isfahan plant in

central Iran.

Asked about quantities, one diplomat said "it's not little," but he declined to elaborate.

Iran is not prohibited from making uranium hexafluoride until the deal takes force. But its decision to carry out uranium processing right up to the freeze deadline was expected to disappoint the

Europeans — and give the United States ammunition in its push to have the U.N. Security Council examine Tehran's nuclear activities.

Washington says Iran wants to enrich uranium to make weapons. Tehran says it is interested only in low-grade enriched uranium for nuclear power.



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Jenkins says wife kidnapped by mistake

The Associated Press

TOKYO — North Korean spies inadvertently kidnapped a Japanese nurse when they were looking for teachers, U.S. Army deserter to the North Charles Jenkins says, a mistake that helped start an unlikely Cold War alliance when she became his wife.

Jenkins' wife, Hitomi Soga, disappeared in April 1978 from a small island off northern Japan after leaving her home with her mother to go shopping. Two years ago, North Korea leader Kim Jong Il admitted she was one of



Jenkins

13 Japanese who were kidnapped to teach the communist country's spies the Japanese language and culture.

"My wife, when she was kidnapped, was the wrong person," Jenkins said in taped interview aired Friday by Fuji TV.

Jenkins said the North had been seeking school teachers to train its children to become spies.

"The North Korean government did not have any use for my wife because she was not a school teacher, she was a nurse," Jenkins said.

Not knowing what to do with Soga, the government decided to place her with Jenkins so that they could be monitored together, Jenkins said.

Jenkins, who deserted his U.S. Army unit along the Demilitarized Zone between the Koreans in January 1965, met and married

Soga in 1980. The couple have two North Korea-born daughters.

The family lived together in the communist country until Soga was returned to Japan in October 2002, when she and four other abduction victims were released after a summit between Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Kim.

The Japanese government was able to arrange for Jenkins and the two daughters to come to Japan earlier this year, saying that the former U.S. army sergeant needed medical attention from Japanese doctors.

The interview was taped while Jenkins was being treated at a Tokyo hospital, Fuji TV said. The network would not reveal how it obtained the tape.

Jenkins was discharged on Sept. 11 and immediately turned himself in to U.S. military authorities at an army base near Tokyo to face desertion and other charges. He was convicted in a Nov. 3 court martial of desertion and aiding the enemy. He is currently serving a 30-day sentence in jail at Yokosuka Naval Base, just south of Tokyo.

Pyeongyang emphatic that Kim Jong Il still in charge

By JOE McDONALD

The Associated Press

BEIJING — North Korea is denying reports that portraits of leader Kim Jong Il have been removed from public places, calling the accounts a U.S. plot to overthrow his government, China's main state news agency reported Friday.

"It didn't happen before, and will never happen," the Xinhua News Agency quoted North Korean Foreign Ministry official Ri Gyoung Son as saying in the



Kim

North's capital, Pyongyang. Ri called the reports "an intrigue that the United States and its attaching countries want to overthrow" the North's government, according to Xinhua.

It didn't say when he made the comments.

Russia's Itar-Tass news agency, citing unidentified diplomats, reported this week that portraits of Kim were being removed from buildings in the North.

Kim and his late father, communist founder Kim Il Sung, are the focus of an intense official cult of personality in North Korea and their portraits are hung in all public places. North Korea is locked in a dispute with the United States and its allies over its nuclear program.

"General Kim Jong Il is the fate of the Korean people and the

DPRK's socialism. It is unimaginable that DPRK people and army can separate their fates from Kim Jong Il," Ri was quoted as saying, referring to North Korea by the initials of its official name.

"It is nothing but stupid and ridiculous acts just like trying to remove the sun from the sky," Ri said, according to Xinhua.

"The adoration for the leader originated from people's life. It will never change."

When asked Thursday about the reports of the portraits being removed, U.S. State Department

spokesman Adam Ereli said Washington had not seen "anything going on in North Korea to raise alarm bells."

Also this week, the Tokyo-based Radiopress news agency, which monitors the North, said the communist regime's state press had toned down the extravagant titles it usually bestows on Kim.

Foreign analysts suggested that Kim might have had such adulation reduced in an effort to lower his profile as a target for public discontent over food shortages and economic problems.

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IN THE STATES

Iran nuke info came from unverified source

Powell spoke about classified matters

BY DAFNA LINZER
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell shared information with reporters Wednesday about Iran's nuclear program that was classified and based on an unvetted, single source who provided information that two U.S. officials said Thursday was highly significant if true but has not yet been verified.

Powell and other senior Cabinet members were briefed more than a week ago on the sensitive intelligence. The material was stamped "No Foreign," meaning it was not to be shared with allies, although President Bush decided that portions could be shared recently with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, officials said.

According to one official with access to the material, a "walk-in" source approached U.S. intelligence earlier this month with more than 1,000 pages purported to be Iranian drawings and technical documents, including a nuclear warhead design and modifications enabling Iranian ballistic missiles to deliver an atomic strike. The official agreed to discuss the information on the condition of anonymity and only because Powell had alluded to it publicly.

But U.S. intelligence officials have been combing the information carefully and with a wary eye, mindful of the mistakes made in trusting intelligence information alleging



Comments about Iran's nuclear efforts made by Secretary of State Colin Powell, left — while in Santiago, Chile, to meet with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, right, and other foreign ministers — revealed classified information.

um-range missile in its arsenal. The Shahab-3 has a range of 800 miles and is capable of hitting Israel.

The official said the CIA remains unsure about the authenticity of the documents and how the information came into their possession. A second official would say only that there are questions about the source of the information.

Officials interviewed by The Washington Post did not know the identity of the source or whether the individual is connected to an Iranian exile group that made fresh accusations about Iran at a news conference Wednesday in Paris. The National Council for Resistance in Iran charged that Iran was still enriching uranium and will continue to do so despite the pledge made a week ago to European foreign ministers.

Powell's remarks also drew expressions of concern from European allies.

Thursday, in an effort to assuage European concerns, the Bush administration told diplomats from those countries that Powell misspoke in releasing information that had not yet been verified, sources said. During a conversation about Iran with reporters accompanying him on a trip to Chile on Wednesday, Powell said he had "seen some information that would suggest that they have been actively working on delivery systems. I'm not talking about uranium or fissile material or the warhead, I'm talking about what one does with a warhead."

Powell's spokesman said Thursday that the secretary stood by those remarks. "The secretary did not misspeak," said State Department spokesman J. Adam Ereli.

Washington Post staff writers Robin Wright in Santiago, Chile, and Glenn Kessler in Washington contributed to this report.

that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. Powell, who announced last week that he would not stay on for a second term, presented that intelligence in February 2003 to the U.N. Security Council.

If the information on Iran is confirmed, it would mean the nation is further along than previously known in developing a nuclear weapon and the means to deliver it. The documents included a specific warhead design with an implosion device on the tip and adjustments aimed at outfitting the warhead on existing Iranian missile systems.

U.S. intelligence has known since at least 2002 that Iran is capable of enriching uranium, the key ingredient in a nuclear bomb.

Iran also has a successful missile program. But U.N. nuclear inspectors who have been investigating Iran for nearly two years have found no evidence that Tehran possesses a nuclear warhead design or is conducting a nuclear weapons program.

The Islamic republic, which on Nov. 14 entered into a new deal with France, Britain and Germany to suspend its nuclear program, has denied it is trying to build atomic weapons and insists its work is part of a budding energy effort.

Western intelligence estimates of Iran's capabilities vary. But U.S. officials believe Iran could be three to five years from completing a bomb if it is successful at constructing and operating thousands of highly sophisticated centrifuge parts for enriching uranium.

The information provided by the source, who was not previously known to U.S. intelligence, does not mention uranium or any other area of Iran's known nuclear program, according to the official with access to the material. It focuses instead on a warhead design and modifications to Iran's long-range Shahab-3 missile and a medi-

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After attack on Vioxx, FDA defends drug-safety work

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Food and Drug Administration official said Friday "we categorically reject" accusations the agency has failed to protect the public against dangerous drugs.

"All the drugs that are on the market have risks," asserted Dr. Steven Galson, acting director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

Appearing on morning television a day after an FDA critic renewed allegations the regulatory agency mishandled the arthritis

drug Vioxx, Galson also said that a review is under way of five other medications whose safety was questioned.

For the second consecutive Friday, Merck & Co. placed full-page advertising in select newspapers. The ads highlight the company's commitment to transparency in research, commitment to patient safety and the health of its balance sheet. Economists estimate the Vioxx disaster could ultimately cost Merck up to \$18 billion.

In one of a trio of full-page ads in Friday's Wall Street Journal, Merck proclaims a tradition of putting patients first, wording that

echoes the company president's testimony before Congress one day earlier.

"When we obtain data from our clinical studies, we promptly disclose them," the ads state. "When questions arise about our medicines, we quickly analyze the available data, explore their meaning within the company and in scientific forums, and conduct further studies as warranted."

In testimony to the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday, FDA reviewer David Graham had cited the acne drug Accutane, the weight loss drug Meridia, the anti-choles-

terol drug Crestor, the pain reliever Bextra and the asthma drug Serevent. The manufacturers of these drugs defended the use and safety of their products.

Graham argued that the country is "virtually defenseless" against a repeat of the Vioxx debacle. Galson immediately rejected that, saying it had "no basis in fact."

"What we're concerned about is the sort of hysterical charges that come out, that aren't based on reality," Galson said Friday on NBC's "Today" show. "I think the drug industry would be astounded at the charges we're too cozy with them," he said.

Caution urged as mad cow worries grow

By Tom Raum
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. consumer and cattle-industry groups joined the government in cautioning against public alarm as federal scientists investigate a possible new case of mad cow disease.

The U.S. Agriculture Department said Thursday that additional checks were needed after an initial screening proved inconclusive for the disease in a single animal. Results will be known within a week.

The announcement raised fears that the United States may have its second case of the fatal brain-wasting disease and rattled the cattle industry, meat firms and hamburger restaurant chains.

Mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, attacks an animal's nervous system. People who eat food contaminated with BSE can contract a rare disease that is nearly always fatal.

Andrea Morgan, associate deputy administrator of the department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the department "remains confident in the safety of the U.S. beef supply." The "inconclusive result" was the same term the agency used in June when two potential cases turned out to be false alarms.

Industry and consumer groups emphasized that the test results were preliminary and that no part of the animal in question had entered the food or feed chain. "We can't assume at this point that this 'inconclusive' represents a positive case," said Jan Lyons, a Kansas cattle producer who is president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

Thursday's announcement sent cattle prices tumbling. Shares of McDonald's, Wendy's and other restaurant chains that feature hamburgers slumped, as did those of U.S. meat producers such as Tyson Foods Inc.

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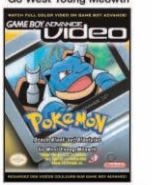
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Final farewell for a unique hip-hop voice

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Family and friends of the late rapper O.D.B. — including Grammy-winning singer Mariah Carey — packed a church Thursday in the vicinity where he grew up to remember one of hip-hop's most original characters.

The rapper, born Russell Tyrone Jones, died at age 35 after a life blessed with musical success — he co-founded the seminal rap group Wu-Tang Clan — and beset by personal problems, including drugs, alcohol and prison.

But his daughter, Taniqua Jones, recalled him as "a big kid" who enjoyed candy, cooking and spending time with his children.

"One thing I know," she will tell the overflow crowd. "My father will be missed all around the world."

Carey, who collaborated with O'Di Bastard on a remix of her hit

"Fantasy," wore sunglasses and a black outfit as she walked to his casket during a wake before the service.

Another Wu-Tang member, RZA, told the audience he felt guilty for not intervening when Jones' lifestyle veered out of control.

Other speakers included Jones' daughter Shaquitta and son Bar-son. A large contingent of the rapper's family filled the front of the church during the nearly two-hour service.

O.D.B. collapsed and died Saturday inside a Manhattan recording studio. The cause of death remained undetermined, but the 35-year-old rapper had struggled with drug and alcohol addiction.

Family members mingled outside the Christian Cultural Center in Brooklyn before entering the church. More than a dozen standing musical arrangements flanked the casket.



Singer Mariah Carey, far left, is escorted as she attends the wake of rapper Russell Jones, otherwise known as O'Di Bastard (O.D.B.) in New York. Jones, a founding member of the hit rap group Wu-Tang Clan, collapsed and died inside a New York recording studio on Nov. 13.



Police are attempting to negotiate a surrender agreement with Young Buck, second from right, a member of the group G-Unit, in connection with a stabbing at the Vibe Awards on Monday, an assault apparently sparked when Buck's musical mentor, Dr. Dre, was punched just before being handed a lifetime achievement award.

Rapper Young Buck treated unfairly by police, mom says

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Young Buck's mother says her son has been treated unfairly by police and demonized for his gangster rap songs that depict the harshness of street life.

"Yes, he is into gangsta rap, but that doesn't make him a criminal," Audrey Horn told The Associated Press on Thursday from her home in Nashville, his hometown.

Police say the 23-year-old rapper (real name: David Darnell Brown), whose debut album has sold more than 700,000 copies, is wanted in connection with a stabbing at Monday's Vibe Awards outside of Los Angeles. The assault followed a brawl that erupted when a man attacked Dr. Dre as he was about to get a lifetime achievement award. The show, broadcast Tuesday night on UPN, was seamlessly edited to remove any trace of the attack.

Detectives were negotiating with

a lawyer representing Buck but had not yet reached a surrender agreement, police said Thursday.

"The Santa Monica police have been unfair to David because he's been treated like a real live criminal when the man who attacked Dr. Dre is being treated like a victim," Buck's mother said.

Buck is shown wielding a knife on a videotape of the melee. The victim later was identified as Jimmy James Johnson, a 26-year-old parolee from Los Angeles.

Johnson suffered a collapsed lung and was hospitalized in stable condition.

Buck is signed to Dre's record label as part of superstar 50 Cent's group G-Unit. His first solo album, "Straight Outta Cashville," debuted at No. 3 on the Billboard charts in August, and his latest single, "Shorty Wanna Ride," is a top 10 hit on Billboard's hip-hop and R&B chart.



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Money talks: Bush gave jobs to big donors

BY SHARON THEIMER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON—One-third of President Bush's top 2000 fund-raisers or their spouses were appointed to positions in his first administration, an Associated Press review found.

Three top fund-raisers became Cabinet secretaries: Bush 2000 finance chairman Don Evans at Commerce, Elaine Chao at Labor and Tom Ridge at Homeland Security.

At least eight took other high-profile administration jobs, such as State Department chief fi-

nanial officer Christopher Burhan and Joe Fropker, U.S. executive director of the Inter-American Development Bank.

At least two dozen of the 2000 fund-raisers or their spouses became ambassadors, mostly to Europe. Howard Leach, a California agribusiness investment banker and former finance chairman of the Republican National Committee, went to Paris. Lobbyist Peter Terpeluk went to Luxembourg.

At least 57 contributors or their spouses were named to agency positions, advisory or decision-making committees and boards or to

U.S. delegations.

James Langdon, a Washington lawyer, was named to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, which advises Bush on intelligence-gathering and counterintelligence. Langdon also was among guests at a state dinner honoring the president of Poland, has stayed overnight at Camp David and served on Bush's energy transition team.

Hersh Kozlov, a New Jersey lawyer, was appointed to the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiation, which advises Bush on trade agreements. Texas lobbyist Roger Wallace joined the

Inter-American Foundation board, which provides development grants to Central America and the Caribbean.

About a half-dozen spouses were given spots on panels, such as the board of advisers at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the National Museum Services Board.

Michelle Engler, a lawyer who is married to former Michigan Gov. John Engler, was named to the Federal Home Mortgage Insurance Corp. board. It oversees a government-sponsored company that finances and insures billions of dollars worth of home

mortgages.

In addition to the appointments, at least three dozen pioneers or others at their companies had front-row seats as Bush assembled his first administration and set policy priorities. Energy, Treasury and Commerce were the most popular transition teams among Bush pioneers.

White House spokeswoman Erin Healy said Bush appointed the contributors because he believed they were well qualified. "His main objective in appointing someone is finding the person who will get the job done, and someone who has the best qualifications," Healy said.

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Farmers revel in holiday

The Associated Press

WESTFORD, Vt. — Judy Adams' daughter called from college in Boston to say she'd make it home by Tuesday to help sell turkeys.

The family will spruce up a small shop next to the house and offer maple bread to customers who return year after year to pick up their Thanksgiving birds. They'll also ship out many of the thousands of turkeys they've raised over the last six months.

It's the height of the Thanksgiving rush for Vermont's roughly 14 turkey producers, and after 20 years of raising turkeys, Judy Adams isn't tired of it.

"I love raising turkeys," she said.

She likes to see them grow from the day-old poults that first arrive in May. She likes the curious chirping sounds they make as they roam around the barn across the street from her home. And she likes this time of year when

Thanksgiving's a day to stuff yourself on gobbly goods, a day to relax and watch the tube, and a day to feast on lots of food.

Talking turkey

As turkey consumption rises, the number of turkeys produced also continues to increase. Nearly two-thirds of U.S.-raised turkeys come from six states in 2004.



Turkey per capita consumption



Top producing states

2004 estimate, in millions

Minnesota	46.5
North Carolina	39.0
Arkansas	28.0
Missouri	21.5
Virginia	19.0
California	16.0

Protein consumption rank

2003 per capita consumption, in pounds

1, Chicken	81.5 lbs.
2, Beef	65.0
3, Pork	51.9
4, Turkey	17.4
5, Lamb and mutton	1.1

Other table staples

2004 production

658 million pounds of cranberries

2.2 billion bushels of wheat for bread, rolls and pie making

2003 production

1.6 billion pounds of sweet potatoes

805 million pounds of pumpkins

Sources: Department of Agriculture; Census Bureau

she gets calls from customers and takes pride in every turkey she sells.

Turkey farming has grown 100 percent in Vermont in the last 10 years, said Dave Lane, deputy secretary of the Agency of Agriculture. The growth in the number of Vermont-raised turkeys may be due to consumers' desire to buy food locally, Lane said.

"The ties to the belief that it's good quality and ... they are helping their neighbors are two characteristics that they really want to support," he said.

The Adams family relies on a close-knit group of family and friends to staff their store during the holiday rush.

"We realize that this is what we can do and do well," she said.

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Tuesday		Dec. 2nd Ladies' Bible Study Progressive Dinner (Thursday 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.)	
Soul Winning & Visitation	1830	Dec. 4th Adult Christmas Banquet (Sat. 4:00 p.m.)	
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Radio host Howard Stern, below center, waits as thousands of his fans line up to receive a free Sirius radio from him in Union Square in New York on Thursday.

Howard gets Sirius: Fans get free radios from Stern

BY VERENA DOBNIK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Howard Stern, surrounded by strippers and cheered by thousands of fans, began promoting his switch to satellite radio Thursday at a rally where he handed out free boom boxes and satellite subscriptions. "Down with the FCC!" the shock jock told a legion of sign-waving backers. "They have ruined commercial broadcasting."

The fans agreed, screaming "Howard rules!" as their hero addressed the overflow crowd. Stern supporters spilled into the streets surrounding Manhattan's Union Square, stopping noontime traffic throughout the neighborhood.

Across the square on Fifth Avenue, the culture war took on another slant, with fans of the rival satellite radio XM staging their own rally, hoisting placards touting the shock jock antics of his "Opie & Anthony" radio team.

Stern will be able to say any-

thing he wants once he starts at Sirius Satellite Radio, which is free of Federal Communications Commission restrictions. Stern has battled for years with the FCC over the content of his salacious show.

Last month, Stern announced he was leaving traditional radio for Sirius — even though his current syndicated show is scheduled to run through December 2005.

Stern has hinted on his morning program that his January 2006 start date at Sirius could be pushed up. His current employer, Infinity Broadcasting, has ordered Stern to cut back on his on-air references to his move.

"(Once you start listening to (satellite), it's like crack," Stern said to cheers. "You will be addicted."

Stern personally handed out a free Sirius boom box to the first 500 fans, while he had another 20,000 redeemable certificates for free radios. The equipment allows listeners, for \$12.95 a month, to receive 120 channels of commercial-free music, sports, news, talk, entertainment and traffic.

Trial for accused stalker begins

Former SEAL had 'dangerous obsession' with Sheryl Crow

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A former Navy SEAL's "dangerous obsession" with singer Sheryl Crow led him to track her down and pay alarming visits to her and her family before he was arrested, a prosecutor said.

Prosecutor Tara Daly told the jury in opening remarks Thursday that Ambrose Kappos, 38,

would convict himself of burglary and stalking.

Kappos is accused of pursuing Crow from July 2002 until October 2003, when he was arrested after finding her at a Manhattan concert hall.

Penelope Seaman, the police officer who arrested Kappos, testified that he told her Crow was his "spiritual twin," and that he and the pop rocker were destined to

marry and have children.

Earlier in 2003, Kappos flew from his base in Virginia to Missouri to see Crow's sister and parents, whom he had found using the Internet, Daly said.

During his opening statement, Kappos' attorney Stan Hickman urged jurors to acquit his client. Kappos has been free on \$15,000 (he was a Navy SEAL until his discharge in June 2003.)

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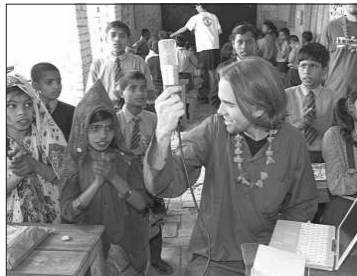
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RELIGION

'Share the Well' a call for world's oppressed



Photos courtesy of Essential Records

Josh Moore of Caedmon's Call records Indian schoolchildren for a track on the new CD "Share the Well." The disc contains many songs about the plight of India's oppressed Dalits — or "untouchables." The CD's cover appears at right.

BY BRIAN BOWERS
Stars and Stripes

India's oppressed Dalits often go thirsty.

Tradition dictates that these "untouchables" must not draw water from a public well because they are considered unclean. As a result, Dalits must often wait hours until someone else offers assistance.

Now, Caedmon's Call's "Share the Well" highlights the struggles and concerns of people in foreign lands.

"We've been asked to be the voice for the voiceless," said Caedmon's frontman Cliff Young.

Members of Caedmon's Call "Share the Well" a "world record" and it does more than add a few of India's sitters and Ecuador's pun pipes. It captures the voices, rhythms, concerns and moods of the countries it visits. All of this is woven seamlessly into a sort of folk-rock tapestry designed to inspire others to take up the con-

cerns of these lands.

"Share the Well" opens with a Dalt chant and drumbeat and then breaks into the title track, with its simple but effective chorus about the need to "share the well with your brother." The song bubbles with life. Its energy sets the tone of the entire CD as it describes hope amid difficulties.

During a concert in North Carolina, the band met a Dalt man who described the oppression India's 250 million Dalits experience under the traditional caste system.

"These are people who have been told they are worthless, they are untouchables," Young said.

Because of this, many Dalits have looked for ways to escape the caste system and some have converted. Young expects the trend to continue. "God's really done something," he said. "You can really feel it in the air."

The desire for change prompted many Dalits to tell their stories

and offer their talents to Caedmon's Call during recording sessions in India. "We had some musicians travel by train, standing up for three days just to tell their story," Young said.

That enthusiasm inspired and challenged the group. The result is a disc that's bursting with great music and powerful lyrics. "Mother India" is a majestic song about how Father God sheds his tears for and reaches out to Mother India. It's a simple, acoustic song that relies heavily on native drumbeats and Danielle Young's pleading vocals as it expresses heartfelt yearning for an end to oppression.

"Bombay Rain" was written in reaction to the swirl of color, confusion and culture of India. Its lyrics paint some of the most vivid pictures on the disc. "Sarala" describes a young American girl's reaction to the Indian homeland of her parents. It was followed by a brief description by Dalt leader Joseph D'Souza of the conditions in which his people live. Then, "Wings of the Morning" urges continued hope.

"Dalt Hymn" is the most assertive of the calls for justice. Among its lyrics are, "Prime minister, free the Dalt," and "Prime minister, caste is a lie."

Although the plight of the Dalt is the major theme of the CD, Caedmon's doesn't forget about its roots in worship music. Amid the rhythms of other nations, "There's Only One (Holy One)" sounds a lot more like a traditional Caedmon's worship song. It packs an energy spawned as much by enthusiastic lyrics of hope and praise as by a powerful folk melody. Another standout is Danielle Young's ballad "The Innocent's Corner," the haunting account of a woman facing hunger with her children.

The disc jumps around the globe to Ecuador in "All I Need," the first of three tracks that extol the simple joys of life. Also from Ecuador is the exuberant "Volcanoland." Clapping hands and tambourines keep the beat as a pun piece provides the perfect accents in this song about a simple and happy life in the shade of a volcano. Finally, "The Roses" also tells about the quiet joys high above Quito.

Ecuador has a prominent place on "Share the Well" because its poor also face problems with water. Cliff Young said digging new wells to provide clean water will be a major emphasis for the group's new Share the Well Foundation.

Today's Praise is a roundup of news and reviews from the contemporary Christian music industry. It appears on the Religion page.

E-mail Brian Bowers at: bowersb@stripes.ond.mil

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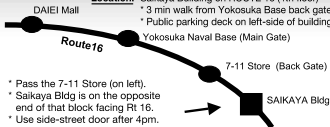
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Dana Reeve and son Will arrive for a gala fund-raiser for the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation in New York on Thursday night. The event raised \$1.7 million to continue Christopher Reeve's efforts to find a cure for spinal-cord injury victims. Reeve died of heart failure last month at the age of 52.

Stars remember Reeve with fund-raising tribute

By JIM FITZGERALD

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gone but hardly forgotten, the late Christopher Reeve was remembered Thursday for his courage and commitment at a \$1.7 million fund-raising dinner that continued his efforts to find a cure for spinal-cord injury victims.

"Christopher pushed the boundaries beyond anything anyone could expect from any human being," said his widow, Dana Reeve, who succeeded him as chair of the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Association. "A human being — not Superman, alas, but a human being."

"To me he was a loving husband, a partner, a confidant, a sweet gift brought into my life," she said.

A star-studded crowd that included William H. Macy, Paul Simon, Minnie Driver and others turned out at what became yet another tribute to Reeve's indomitable spirit in the wake of his death last month at age 52.

"Our hero has passed on and now we need to be the heroes," Dana Reeve said. "Your heroic gesture, frankly, is to write a check."

Macy presented actress Glenn Close, a longtime Reeve friend who characterized the evening as bittersweet, with the foundation's Human Spirit Award.

"Christopher became a great

offered their memories of Reeve. "I grew up with the 'Superman' movies," Alt said.

Esposito recalled how his friend had accomplished so much without the use of his body.

"He was a profound leader," Esposito said. "We were all surprised and crushed at his demise. Those of us who know

Chris, we're sure he's walking in heaven."

Actor Daryl Mitchell, paralyzed in a 2001 motorcycle accident, cited Reeve as an inspiration.

"I had nobody to stand up for me, but Christopher did," he said.

Dana Reeve said this week that while the

gala had naturally evolved into something of a tribute to him, it's important "that we're also thinking about the future and about fund-raising and about keeping his mission alive."

Reeve became the face of spinal cord injury after a May 1995 horse riding accident left him unable to use his arms or legs or breathe without a ventilator. He used his celebrity to lobby for more funds for biomedical research and aid to the disabled.

"Our hero has passed on and now we need to be the heroes. ... Your heroic gesture, frankly, is to write a check."

Dana Reeve

man, someone the whole world mourns," Close told 900 guests at the New York Marriott Marquis.

"He is irreplaceable, and he is here urging us on."

A video tribute to Reeve featured Michael J. Fox and Susan Sarandon. "Chris's presence is palpable," his wife said.

Guests paid \$750 to \$10,000 to attend the annual dinner. Early arrivals included model Carol Alt and actor Giancarlo Esposito, who

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Stars and Stripes (USPS #417 900) is published daily (except Christmas and New Year's Day) for 30 cents daily and \$1 Sunday by the Stars and Stripes Central office, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20045-1301. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, Calif. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96337-5002.

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Rising Sun Bowl no contest

The current Rising Sun Bowl is no unfair activity that continues only to protect one school's five-year domination of the sport and a coach's winning record at any cost ("Yokota wins fifth Rising Sun Bowl," Nov. 15). The value of the activity (it is the Department of Defense Dependents Schools All-Japan football championship) is diminished for the student-athletes who participate in such a poorly designed program.

Pride is not a virtue. Why anyone would take pride in beating up on an opponent is one thing (50-to-whatever), but forcing the opponent to participate with one arm tied behind his back is shameful. Gloating over a win by trashing half a school is basically what bullies do.

What are we teaching student-athletes when such an unfair situation is created? Far from a level playing field, the Rising Sun Bowl is a joke. A more creative and more fair bowl game would be to have an all-star/all-conference bowl game. This would reach out and touch more participants from more locations while being fair and honorable. This would reward student-athletes from all the participating schools, not just the bully team of the year.

Department of Defense Education Activity could arrange mainland Japan all-conference picks and Okinawa all-conference picks to participate on a fair and level playing field. They should showcase graduating upperclassmen looking to move onto the college level. Scouts could be invited. They could reward championship athletes at the same time.

DODEA could even capitalize on the opportunity of inviting Japanese standout players for a real mix of culture.

It is better to spread the opportunity to the best at all schools then to continue to operate a bully bowl of shame.

Mark Ertz

Camp McCurtues, Okinawa

NCOs: Do what's right

I am a sergeant deployed to Camp Arifjan in Kuwait. At the camp, we have all branches from National Guard, Reserve, active-duty Navy, Marines and Depotment of Army civilians as well as Army. In the time I have been in theater, I have made many corrections on soldiers and noncommissioned officers, from simple

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things such as pens sticking out of pockets to lack of wearing safety gear and improper wear of the uniform.

What I want to know is why is one NCO making these corrections while other NCOs walk by them. When you NCOs put on your stripes, you most likely heard something or learned a creed, part of which starts like this: "No one is more professional than I. I am a noncommissioned officer." If you don't want to take the time to live up to it, do one thing: Take off the chevrons and rockers because there's a lot of other people who deserve them.

I'm not complaining about just uniforms. I have seen soldiers stand in front of a command sergeant major with their arms crossed in front of them while their squad leader did the same thing. Earn your paycheck and make your Joos do the right thing, too.

To the NCOs doing the right thing, thank you. And to the NCOs bringing shame to the military, take off the rank because you don't deserve it.

Sgt. George E. Harris
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

U.S. flag mustn't be demoted

I am in complete agreement with the writer of the Nov. 5 letter "Flag patch is

wrong," regarding his dissenting view on the display of the U.S. flag below the combat patch. The questioning of this display is not limited to those of us in uniform. While traveling on rest and recuperation, a couple of veterans asked why the flag was displayed below the combat patch. I could not give an answer.

While I'm proud to wear a combat patch, I cannot understand why our nation's symbol is displayed in this subordinate manner. It is no different than being on post and seeing the division colors flown above the U.S. flag.

Capt. Christopher Kerr
Iraq

Flu-shot saga unnecessary

I understand there is a shortage of the flu vaccine in the States this year. The shot is only being administered to the elderly or those who come in close contact with many people (teachers, medical personnel).

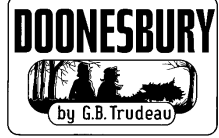
In theater, however, the flu shot is mandatory. As a young, healthy soldier living in a (well-ventilated) tent in the desert, I wouldn't seem to be a likely candidate to catch the flu, nor a likely candidate to get vaccinated against it.

Tell me your take on the saga of my flu shot. First, I got the mandatory shot to protect me from the sickness that I was unlikely to get. The injection site (my shoulder) got infected from the shot that was supposed to protect me. I showed them that I was worse off than if I hadn't gotten the shot to protect me from the sickness that I wasn't likely to get. After a second visit, I was prescribed antibiotics to treat me for the shot that was supposed to protect me from the sickness that I wasn't likely to get in the first place. Two pills, four times a day, for 10 days. In two days, I have to return for a follow-up.

That makes 80 pills and three visits to cure me from the prevention of a sickness that I wasn't likely to get in the first place. And they wonder why I'm afraid of needles.

My apologies to the elderly people back home who are waiting in line for hours to pay for the medically indicated vaccination that every healthy soldier in the Middle East is getting for free, whether they need it or not.

Sgt. Teresa Kennedy
Camp Virginia, Kuwait



OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Don't let abortion dominate Dayton (Ohio) Daily News

OK, the time is long past due for a discussion of the societal, that merely Wouldn't it be something — interesting, fun, cool, something — if, next time around, the Republicans put up a candidate who favors abortion rights and the Democrats put somebody who opposes them? The government spends trillions of dollars and presides over a country of extraordinary complexity and diversity. And yet one social issue is at the center in determining peoples' politics.

Candidates fit molds, slide along grooves. More focus is put on such simple, divisive issues as abortion, religion and gay marriage, as opposed to policy decisions that will have more impact on the well being of the country and world.

Somewhere the American body politic has to dig itself out of those grooves.

Perhaps the beginning is for thoughtful citizens to decide that abortion is not the be-all-and-end-all issue.

Put Sudan solution on map Los Angeles Times

The Sudanese government has a bizarre understanding of what peace means. Hours after leaders signed a cease-fire agreement with rebels in the western territory of Darfur, government troops stormed refugee camps there, beat inhabitants and forced them to move. The U.N. toll in Darfur is now estimated at 50,000 and will keep rising with stronger action from the international community.

The U.N. Security Council met in Nairobi last week with Sudan a major topic. Diplomats ... should take tougher action against the Khartoum government, such as an embargo on Sudanese oil, unless it stops beating and killing people in Darfur.

The United States and other countries have helped with peacekeeping logistics, including flying African Union troops to Darfur. But the number of peacekeepers must be increased quickly. The current 500 are overstretched. ... Credible threats of sanctions against the Sudanese government and the rebels, plus additional international soldiers and police, can increase the likelihood of an end to the killings and forced relocations.

Locality at top of Bush's list The Forum, Fargo, N.D.

The real story about last week's changes in President Bush's Cabinet is the Cabinet's remarkable stability during his first term. Turnover has been minimal when measured against the Cabinet churn of other presidents during a first term.

What the national press is describing as "shake-up" is, in effect, expected change among the president's top advisers. The fact that most of his key Cabinet secretaries ... remain on the job for nearly all of a president's four years is a remarkable record that speaks to the president's ability to assemble and hold a loyal team.

Further confirming the strength of the president's team, the Cabinet replacements named thus far have been White House insiders. ...

President Bush plays a team game in white. He is the team captain. ... Stray from the playbook and expect to get the boot.

Powell, of course, could not be booted in the way [Paul] O'Neill was [from treasury] because ... the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff earned the respect and enormous credibility and popularity among Americans.



CHANGE AT STATE...

ing) is certainly worth the advantages provided by wind energy. Already across America, wind turbines are producing enough pollution-free energy to serve more than 1 million homes.

So bring on the steady whoop-whoop-whoops of wind turbines. The time is rapidly expiring for producing energy by burning coal and gas. Power producers increasingly will have no choice but to ... start reaching up, to harness the free and clean wind.

Theorists don't have a prayer Rocky Mountain News, Denver

Any hope that this year's brutal political rivalry would diminish after Nov. 2 has been utterly dashed. ... Supposedly serious people have actually begun to worry — or at least to say they worry — about the rise of theocracy in America.

Yes, that is the incendiary word — anguished commentators have used — "theocracy" — in publications as mainstream as USA Today and The Miami Herald, not to choose more partisan enclaves such as The Village Voice and Salon.com. Writing in the New York Times, Gary Hart joined the hysterical herd, warning of "the disturbing tendency to insert theocratic principles into the vision of America's role in the world." Fundists elsewhere lamented the endorsement of "an extremist Christian regime" or predicted the descent into "another dark age."

Finally, those worried about theocracy should keep in mind that the actual percentage of voters who identified moral values as their top concern was roughly one-fifth. Most voted for Bush, but so did most voters who favor tax relief and who see the war in Iraq as critical for U.S. security. It is nonsense to claim that a horde of religious zealots put Bush over the top.

'Ryan's' hope dashed by execs The Des Moines (Iowa) Register

Some ABC affiliates, including WOI-TV in Des Moines and KCAU-TV in Sioux City, have not to air "Saving Private Ryan" on Veterans Day. The World War II movie contains violence and foul language broadcasters feared would result in sanctions from the Federal Communications Commission, which tightened regulations and upped indecency fines after the infamous Janet Jackson Super Bowl halftime show.

Now some Americans can't watch an Oscar-winning war movie on TV.

Broadcasters have been upset over new regulations for months.

Pulling a popular war movie on Veterans Day provides the perfect opportunity to turn public opinion against the FCC crackdown. The regulations are absurd.

Americans already tune in nightly to cable television not regulated by the government. A satellite dish picks up hundreds of channels outside the reach of the FCC. Bad language, sexually graphic material and extreme violence are as close as the next click of the remote. Regulating a few channels and fining a few broadcasters won't ensure wholesome television for Americans.

Programming decisions should be left to broadcasters. And their decisions should be based on public reaction. ...

As always, the best form of censorship is the off button.

Powell departure ends debate The Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester, N.Y.

As expected, Secretary of State Colin Powell is leaving the Bush administration. He was one of four Cabinet members whose pending departures were disclosed Monday.

Without question, Powell's exit represents the biggest loss to both the administration and the nation.

He epitomized statesmanship, a quality that is becoming increasingly rare among government leaders. In fact, his respected stature made all the difference for many who were unsure about supporting the American invasion of Iraq. They surmised: If Powell, who oversaw the Persian Gulf War, believed these weapons of mass destruction in Saddam Hussein's Iraq, that was good enough. ...

Now it could happen that [Vice President Dick] Cheney and [Defense Secretary Donald] Rumsfeld, both hawks, will get their way at the State Department without a fight. That's scary.

Though Powell, a military man for 35 years, was a good soldier, he also could be counted on to speak his mind. That's an attribute good leaders should value from their team members. Even if Powell wound up on the losing side, he at least forced consideration of a different point of view.

The administration and the American people will miss Colin Powell.

Diamonds not forever

CT MILFORD — Is the wedding still on? That's one of the unanswered questions in the case of a man who police say staged a break-in at his own home so he could sell his fiancée's engagement ring.

George Rich, 43, was charged Tuesday with falsely reporting an incident and providing a false statement. He was released on a written promise to appear in Superior Court on Dec. 7. Police said Rich made the couple's home look like a burglar had broken in and stolen jewelry, including the gold engagement ring with diamonds. Court documents show Rich pawned the items for \$5,000 at the Hook It To Me shop.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Pets and profits

TX HOUSTON — Houston's animal shelter, which put 94 percent of its animals to death last year, has rejected an outside group's offer to help find homes for its dogs and cats.

The city's Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care rejected the offer by Spay-Neuter Assistance Program because the adoptions would not be profitable.

John Nix, division manager of the city shelter, said the \$25 sterilization fee, a \$7.50 heartworm test and other costs might exceed the \$35 the city charges residents who adopt animals.

Spay-Neuter Assistance Program also said it would lend its truck to volunteers to take up to 30 animals to malls on Saturdays.

However, Nix said the city shelter does not have enough veterinarians to spay or neuter the 30 pets that would be sent out in the SNAP truck and can't afford to pay SNAP for the service.

Pounding out message

UT PROVO — Ben Cook's fingers can communicate at warp speed.

Cook, 17, used his cellular phone key pads to type a string of words with 160 characters in 57.75 seconds Tuesday, bidding to become the world's text-messaging king.

The message was "The razor-toothed piranhas of the genera Serrasalminus and Pygocentrus are the most ferocious freshwater fish in the world. In reality, they seldom attack a human."

Guinness lists the previous record typing the same words at 67 seconds.

Still smoking

IA DES MOINES — Iowa ranks in the middle of states with the number of adults who smoke, according to a government survey.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says Iowa ranked 24th in the USA with 21.7 percent of adults reporting they smoked.

Nationally, 22.1 percent of adults smoke. Although the 2003 figures showed a reduction in the number of men who smoke, CDC officials say the numbers aren't different enough to declare a definite trend.

Condors multiply

OR PORTLAND — The 12 endangered California condors at the Oregon Zoo have started to multiply since arriving here a year ago this week. One pair has produced two healthy chicks. Already, adult males are begin-

ning to court the females, signaling the start of another breeding season. Their numbers had dipped to just 22 known birds by 1982. A captive breeding program started in 1987 as a last-ditch method to help condors survive.

Accidental drowning

NH CONCORD — The St. Paul's School student who drowned in 4 feet of water in the school's newly opened pool may have been trying to see how long he could hold his breath and swim underwater, police said.

Autopsy results released Tuesday show Clifford R. Nyquist, 15, died from "complications of near drowning." The autopsy eliminated any underlying medical condition, such as a heart attack, aneurysm or blow to the head, Concord Police Lt. Walter Carroll said. It confirms the 15-year-old's death on Nov. 7 was accidental.

Much bigger payout

FL TAMPA — After being "lost" for 60 years in the vaults of Florida's Ringling Museum of Art, an 1887 oil painting sold at a Sotheby's auction in New York for \$1.2 million.

That's a million more than its value had been estimated.

The bidding for the oil-on-canvas "Infant Malade" by Venezuelan artist Arturo Michelena, was won by an anonymous buyer, a Sotheby's spokeswoman said Tuesday.



Trimming the tree

Johnny White, bottom, and Josh Richert, top left, of the Pontiac, Mich., grounds maintenance department, work on the frame of the city's 45-foot-tall holiday tree outside City Hall.

day. Pre-sale estimates valued the painting at \$150,000-\$200,000, but it sold for \$1,352,000. That's \$1,202,000 for the painting itself, plus \$150,000 for Sotheby's premium.

Pioneering Sarasota developer Owen Burns bought the painting from Caroline Astor's collection during a famous sale in New York in 1926, but Burns' family lost track of it after his death.

Car tax repealed

IL KANKAKEE — The City Council decided it no longer needed the \$370,000 generated by the city's \$35 annual vehicle tax and voted unanimously to repeal it. The tax took the form of stickers required for residents' vehicles. The mayor sought the repeal after comparing current expenses and revenue with past audits and budgets and finding city sales tax revenue had been growing.

'Leaf rage' strikes

CT STAMFORD — When city employees refused to haul away his raked leaves, Michael Peters blew up. And his neighbor got him arrested for what police describe as "leaf rage."

Peters, 67, of North Stamford, was charged with breach of peace, a misdemeanor, after accusing municipal workers who told him they collected leaves only on the street, not those on his right of way, where his were stacked.

"He grabbed my jacket and said, 'You're not going anywhere,'" operations Supervisor Robert Garbert said of Peters. "The guy was spitting and swearing — it was the most disgusting scene I've ever seen."

Peters admitted he lost his cool, frustrated by more than three decades of being ignored by the town at leaf time.

Crash landing

CO LYONS — A 17-year-old dying student taking his first lesson crash-landed a single-engine plane, authorities said.

Neither Benjamin Dötterweich nor his instructor, Rob Sutcliffe, was injured in the crash, said Laura McConnell, of the Lyons Fire Protection District. The two used a cell phone to help lead a rescue team to their location, McConnell said. Both were able to walk out of the rocky terrain on their own, she said. Dötterweich had won the lessons after entering a contest at his high school.

Impersonating IRS agent

CA OAKLAND — A judge sentenced an Oakland woman to five months in prison for impersonating an Internal Revenue Service agent and cheating someone out of \$9,300 under the guise of handling a tax audit.

U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken also ordered Christine Mele Felise, 45, to serve five months of home detention while under electronic monitoring. Felise pleaded guilty June 21 to three counts of impersonating a government official.

She claimed to be an IRS auditor and falsely claimed to a woman that the tax agency had assessed her \$16,762 in federal and state income taxes, authorities said. In September, Felise received more than \$9,000 from the woman to cover the taxes supposedly owed, authorities said.



Hang in there
playing after school.

Elihanah Linder, left, and Abby Booth, both 7, hang from a tree in Townsend, Va., while



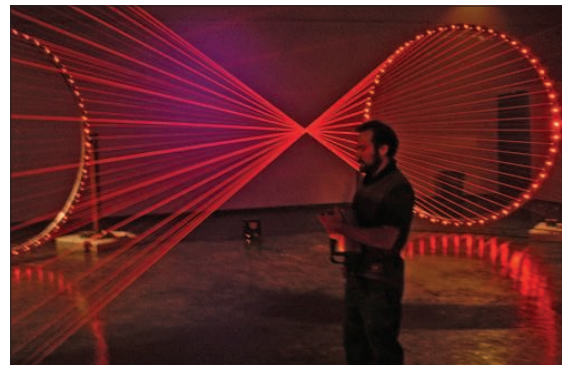
Icy damage

Allstate Insurance agent Ed Randolph, left, and Kim Davidson inspect the damage on a Ford Explorer that slid off an icy road and crashed into the back yard of Davidson's house in Kodiak, Ak.



Outta my way!

A motorist comes to a complete stop on Route 88 in Holiday, W.Va., as a deer crosses the road.



Laser show At the University of Florida, Matt Schreiber, an artist from Miami, readies his laser-based artwork, "The Force," in the University Gallery in Gainesville, Fla.



Praising the roof Tom Hopkins works on a new roof at First Presbyterian Church in Davenport, IA.



Tasty treat Kojo, a baby great ape, feeds on a pumpkin during the annual pumpkin squash at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C.



Sunset surf From left, Jennifer Berk, Alex Kasa and Misha Hanna Betsh head for the surf at sunset in Del Mar, Calif.

Trying to save libraries

CA SALINAS — The City Council in John Steinbeck's hometown is making a last-ditch effort to save at least one of its three public libraries. All are set to close by summer because voters rejected two tax measures. The council voted to form a library committee and postpone further cuts to the 2005-06 budget until mid-December to allow time to explore other means of fund-raising.

Drivers to get E-Z Pass

ME PORTLAND — The Maine Turnpike will convert on Feb. 1 from Transpass to E-Z Pass, the electronic toll collection system used along much of the eastern seaboard.

Under the change, Maine motorists will be able to breeze through toll plazas in Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

Drivers from those states will be able to do the same in Maine, helping to reduce congestion, particularly in summer when traffic is at its peak.

More than 80,000 Transpass users in Maine will be sent forms this week to enroll in the new system. Truckers with existing accounts received enrollment information last month.

Snow warnings

MN ST. PAUL — St. Paul says it will notify residents by telephone when there's a snow emergency so they can get their cars off the street. Public Works officials say the phone notification will save money, since the city can plow streets quicker, better and a lot cheaper if the streets have no cars. The city is contracting with a firm that uses commercially available telephone lists will reach an estimated 85 percent of city residences. The public can add unlimited numbers or cell phone numbers to the database by following instructions on the city's Web site.

Cruel punishment

VA FREDERICKSBURG — A woman who forced her son to rake leaves in the nude as punishment for misbehaving in school has pleaded guilty to a child cruelty charge.

However, the 47-year-old mother might avoid a felony record.

Under an agreement worked out by the prosecution and defense, Fredericksburg Circuit Court Judge John W. Scott Jr. on Monday deferred the case to March 3.

At that time, Scott could impose the guilty plea, find the woman guilty of a lesser charge or continue the case to another date.

Defense attorney Beverly Haney said the woman has no criminal record and does not deserve a felony conviction.

Plan to help home buyers

AZ TUCSON — The Pima County supervisors approved a plan to create a trust fund to help low-income home buyers.

The fund will be financed largely by local home builders. Contributions to the fund won't be required but will be encouraged when builders seek rezoning or plan approvals for developments.

Indians want bigger role

MT HELENA — Tribal leaders are encouraging Gov.-elect Brian Schweitzer to give American Indians greater roles in state government as his office comes under Democratic control for the first time in 16 years. Some want the job of Indian affairs coordinator elevated to a Cabinet position. Other tribal leaders propose a new Department of Indian Affairs.

Man cashes in pennies

OH LYNDHURST — If a penny saved is a penny earned, then Eugene Sukie earned \$104,880.13 in his three-plus decades of thriftiness.

Over the years, Eugene Sukie, a retired glass plant supervisor, rolled the pennies in wrappers and stored them in 575 cigar boxes organized by year and mint. He had them counted — by a machine, of course.

The pennies, over one million of them and weighing 3 1/2 tons, were trucked from Sukie's home in Barberton to a coins-to-cash machine at a suburban Cleveland supermarket.

Sukie, 78, was worried that he and his wife were getting old and eventually wouldn't be able to get the pennies out of their basement.

Coinstar Inc., of Bellevue, Wash., which operates coin-counting machines, charged Sukie an 8.9 percent service charge, or \$932.73, but paid him \$1,500 for the right to tell his story.

That means that, in all, Sukie pocketed more than \$11,000.

Food fight suspension

TN MEMPHIS — A cafeteria food fight on "meat loaf day" led to the suspension of the entire eighth-grade class at a Memphis school.

The students were suspended after refusing to clean up the mess they caused.

The food fight broke out at Geeter Middle School, which has 637 students in grades six through eight. Meat loaf and chicken were on the menu.

Principal Jada Meeks suspended students who were in the cafeteria during the fight, meaning the youngsters' parents must meet with school officials before the children can return to class.

The cause of the disturbance was not immediately known. No serious injuries were reported.

More than just news

OH CLEVELAND — A television news anchor appeared on the air nude in a first-person report about an artist's photographs, drawing a record number of viewers for the time slot, the station said.

Sharon Reed was one of hundreds of people who participated in Spencer Tunick's nude photo installation in Cleveland in June. Her report, shown on the 11 p.m. newscast on WOIO-TV, showed far away angles of her nude and some closer seminu shots, as well as other participants.

The station aired advisories before the piece, and FCC spokeswoman Janice Wiss on Wednesday said WOIO followed commission rules that prohibit indecent material from being aired on broadcast television from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Stories and photos from wire services

YOUR MONEY



Shoppers Dulce Villarreal, left, and her friend Maria Melendez, both of Tustin, Calif., do their back-to-school shopping at MainPlace Mall in Santa Ana in August. Last year, for the first time, cash and checks accounted for less than half of in-store purchase payments, according to a study. It also shows debit-card transactions increased from 21 percent five years ago to 31 percent last year.

Debit cards: Time well-spent?

BY MARY ANN MILBOURN
Orange County (Calif.) Register

When Palmerini Perez goes shopping, she will not leave home without it but "it" is not the American Express card.

Perez takes her debit card to pay for everything she buys, including the sweater she bought this month at Westfield Main-Place mall in Santa Ana, Calif., and cannot imagine paying any other way.

"It takes [the money] directly out of my checking account," said Perez, 30, of Union City, N.J., who is visiting in Orange County. "I never have to worry about credit."

Perez is one of millions of Americans, especially younger consumers, who increasingly favor debit cards over other forms of payment.

A recent Harris Poll conducted for Visa USA showed when it comes to buying an article of fall clothing, such as a sweater or jeans, nearly half of the 1,562 people surveyed said they were most likely to use a debit card. Among 18- to 34-year-olds such as Perez, 54 percent said they would use debit cards.

"That's what we're seeing across the board," said Seth Eisen, a Visa spokesman. "More and more people are using debit cards for purchases."

Debit cards, which electronically deduct money directly from a consumer's checking account, are just one more example of how modern technology is changing the way people handle their money.

Fastest payment method

Which payment type gets customers through the checkout line fastest?

Payment method	Age 18-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55+	All ages
Cash	39%	47%	49%	58%	50%
Debit card	38%	38%	30%	20%	29%
Credit card	18%	10%	13%	13%	15%
Check	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Not sure	5%	4%	6%	8%	5%

Preferred payment method

If you were buying a single article of clothing, which payment methods would you be most likely to use?

Payment method	Age 18-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55+	All ages
Debit card	54%	53%	48%	37%	48%
Credit card	17%	24%	23%	37%	28%
Cash	23%	18%	19%	16%	20%
Check	5%	5%	10%	10%	3%
Other*	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%

*Gift card, travelers checks, etc.

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Source: Harris Interactive poll for Visa USA of 1,562 U.S. adults, Sept. 1-15, 2004. 3 percent margin of error.
Graphic: The Orange County Register

Note: Figures may not total 100 percent due to rounding

Because of their convenience and widespread acceptance by merchants, debit cards are rapidly becoming the new cash. In fact, for the first time last year, cash and checks accounted for less than half the payments — 47 percent — for in-store purchases, according to a study by the American Bankers Association and Boston-based Dove Consulting Group. Just five years ago, they made up 57 percent.

During the same period, the

study said, debit-card transactions increased from 21 percent five years ago to 31 percent as of last year.

Luis Gonzalez, 23, and his wife Vanessa, 22, of Orange, are dedicated debit-card users. "They are easy to carry — you don't have to carry money around," said Luis Gonzalez. "It's also easier to track receipts. You can go home and check your account online."

SEE DEBIT ON PAGE 27

Adviser: Retirees should spend, too

Being frugal not only way to stay afloat

BY JONATHAN CLEMENTS
The Wall Street Journal

Many retirees have trimmed their spending during recent years, and it isn't just because of plunging bond yields and tumbling stock prices. Instead, they have been reacting to dire warnings from Wall Street, cautioning them that their portfolios can't sustain the sort of withdrawal rates that used to be considered safe. Feeling pinched? Don't resign yourself to a lifetime of scrimping and saving just yet.

A new study by Minneapolis certified financial planner Jonathan Guyton analyzed how to generate 40 years of income while surviving brutal market conditions, such as high inflation and a steep market decline early in retirement. He found retirees may be able to withdraw as much as 6.2 percent initially.

When experts talk about withdrawal rates, they are typically referring to the percentage of a portfolio's value withdrawn during the first year of retirement.

Thereafter, retirees are assumed to increase their withdrawals along with inflation. Let's say you retired with \$600,000, inflation ran at 3 percent and you used a 6 percent withdrawal rate. In that scenario, you would withdraw \$36,000 in the first year of retirement, \$37,080 in year two, \$38,192 in year three and so on.

Keep two things in mind. First, you will owe taxes, so not all this money can be spent. Second, if you spend your dividends and interest, these sums count toward the amount withdrawn.

The strategy of increasing withdrawals along with inflation works fine, provided the markets and inflation are moderately well-behaved. But if you get hit with either rapid inflation or a

devastating market crash, you can rapidly run out of money, as you make larger and larger withdrawals from an ever-shrinking portfolio.

If your portfolio loses money during the year, you can't give yourself a raise the following year. In other words, if you add up your portfolio's year-end value and the money withdrawn during the prior 12 months and this sum is less than your portfolio's beginning-of-year value, you can't increase your next year's withdrawal to compensate for inflation.

Also, avoid selling hard-hit stock funds. Instead, each year, start by lightening up on winning stock funds.

Finally, "rebalance" your bond funds back to their target percentages, and sweep the gains into your money fund. The proceeds from rebalancing, plus the cash already in your money fund, should cover your spending needs.

If it doesn't, you should draw down your bonds even further. As a last resort, sell more of your stock funds, starting with the prior year's best performers.

The first and second rules will occasionally limit spending increases, so there's a chance that retirees who use Guyton's strategy will receive less total income over 40 years than if they had started with a lower initial withdrawal rate but got inflation increases every year.

Still, retirees get a decent amount of income initially and they may never see the downside, either because they don't live long enough or because the markets prove relatively benign.

As Guyton puts it, "I wouldn't want to be the financial planner who has to look at an 85-year-old client in the eye and explain why he has so much money and why he's had so little fun."

American Airlines tossing its pillows

Cash-strapped American Airlines on Wednesday said it is trying to take some of the fluff out of its costs. So the world's largest carrier is eliminating pillows on its planes.

The multibillion-dollar airline, the world's largest carrier, figures it will save about \$300,000 a year by doing away with the pillows on about half of its fleet — 334 MD-80s, American officials said.

But what the airline may gain in savings it may lose in its appeal to customers, analysts said.

According to American, pillowless airplanes translate into savings because workers will be able to clean the planes faster between flights. That will reduce the time aircraft sit at airport gates.

But what will passengers think when they want to put their heads back and find — no pillow? "We think in many cases the customers won't miss it," said Ned Raynolds, an American spokesman in Manhattan.

But Vaughn Cordie, chief analyst for Airline Forecasts LLC, consultants in Washington, D.C., said American should be so sure about that. "Passengers will notice over time," Cordie said. "The quality of the service deteriorates because of the financial distress."

American said it chose MD-80s because they have adjustable headrests that can be used in place of pillows. And just in case passengers think American is becoming a no-frills carrier, it noted that the MD-80s would continue to carry blankets.

From wire reports

YOUR MONEY

Helping mom may hurt credit

Q: My mother has asked me to co-sign a loan for a used car. Her current vehicle requires major repairs, and appears to be in bad enough shape that it will continue to eat money.

She has poor credit, and was repeatedly in default on a mobile home loan co-signed by her boyfriend. She eventually paid it off, but at great cost to his credit score and only after several emergency contributions over the years from him and from me. I fully expect that if I do co-sign, she'll fall behind on the payments and I'll end up bailing her out again.

Is there any way to protect my credit score if I do co-sign, or are there any less risky alternatives?

A: If your mother is late on even a single payment, your credit score could be devastated. You could easily be transformed overnight from a great risk to a mediocre one in lenders' eyes. That means you could have a tougher time getting credit yourself, and you'll probably pay more in fees and interest.

In other words, once you co-sign the loan, your credit is in your mother's hands — and as you well know, that's not a safe place to be.

You could try to head off the damage by asking the lender to agree in writing to contact you if your mom fails to pay, but that's no guarantee that the missed payments won't also show up on your credit report.

If you're committed to helping her, you might consider getting the loan in your name and making the payments yourself, with the understanding that she's supposed to reimburse you. She'll probably feel even less obligation to pay than she

has any other lender, which means this solution will cost you more in the short run. In the long run, though, you'll be able to help your mom while protecting your future credit.

Q: I'm a 49-year-old man who wants to get my bachelor's degree. I've been accepted to a private four-year university, but can't get a loan. I have a scholarship money, but only make \$11 an hour as a teacher's assistant, my wife makes \$150,000 per year, which would make us ineligible for any financial aid. She's already paying for her son's college education and doesn't want to pay for mine, but at my age taking out a loan is foolish. Do you have any advice?

A: Excessive debt is foolish at any age, but a moderate amount of borrowing could easily pay off for you in higher income and greater job satisfaction.

The key is "moderate." You're unlikely to find enough scholarship money to make much of a dent in the price tag of a private, four-year school, and you're wise not to want to take \$80,000 or more in student loan debt.

The simplest answer, then, is to find a cheaper school, take on a few student loans and try to continue working at least part time. You should be able to handle the debt load as long as the total amount you borrow is two-thirds or less of the salary you expect to make your first year after graduating.

Liz Pulliam Weston is the author of "Your Credit Score: How to Fix, Improve and Protect the 3-Digit Number that Shapes Your Financial Future." Questions for Money Talk can be submitted to her at 1940 Laurel Canyon Blvd., #238, Studio City, CA 91604 or via her Web site, www.lizweston.com. She responds to questions on a non-personal basis. Distributed by No More Red Ink.

Money Talk



Liz Pulliam Weston

THURSDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week High	Low	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-week High	Low	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
10,153.63	9,556.50	+12.54	+0.13	+21.11	2,612.22	+11.76	+0.45	+0.17	+26.13
3,631.53	2,743.46	+0.95	+0.03	+13.76	2,612.22	+11.76	+0.45	+0.17	+26.13
29.12	24.26	+0.01	+0.04	+2.82	2,612.22	+11.76	+0.45	+0.17	+26.13
7,042.22	5,527.45	+0.01	+0.00	+10.55	2,612.22	+11.76	+0.45	+0.17	+26.13
1,353.21	1,064.93	+0.01	+0.00	+1.96	2,612.22	+11.76	+0.45	+0.17	+26.13
1,353.21	1,064.93	+0.01	+0.00	+1.96	2,612.22	+11.76	+0.45	+0.17	+26.13
1,188.46	1,011.20	+0.01	+0.00	+1.93	2,612.22	+11.76	+0.45	+0.17	+26.13
1,188.46	1,011.20	+0.01	+0.00	+1.93	2,612.22	+11.76	+0.45	+0.17	+26.13
627.89	515.90	+0.01	+0.00	+0.86	2,612.22	+11.76	+0.45	+0.17	+26.13
11,648.42	10,559.38	+0.01	+0.00	+0.86	2,612.22	+11.76	+0.45	+0.17	+26.13

NYSE

AMEX

Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
Apple 14,113	Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113
Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113
Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113
Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113
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Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113
Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113
Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS

Name	High	Low	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
Atlantic Technologies	48.12	46.25	+0.12	+0.25	+11.2
Boeing	100.00	98.00	+0.00	+0.00	+10.0
Boeing	100.00	98.00	+0.00	+0.00	+10.0
Boeing	100.00	98.00	+0.00	+0.00	+10.0
Boeing	100.00	98.00	+0.00	+0.00	+10.0
Boeing	100.00	98.00	+0.00	+0.00	+10.0
Boeing	100.00	98.00	+0.00	+0.00	+10.0
Boeing	100.00	98.00	+0.00	+0.00	+10.0
Boeing	100.00	98.00	+0.00	+0.00	+10.0
Boeing	100.00	98.00	+0.00	+0.00	+10.0

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	High	Low	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
Fidelity Invest. Global	27.81	26.82	+0.76	+2.74	+8.2
Fidelity Invest. Global	27.81	26.82	+0.76	+2.74	+8.2
Fidelity Invest. Global	27.81	26.82	+0.76	+2.74	+8.2
Fidelity Invest. Global	27.81	26.82	+0.76	+2.74	+8.2
Fidelity Invest. Global	27.81	26.82	+0.76	+2.74	+8.2
Fidelity Invest. Global	27.81	26.82	+0.76	+2.74	+8.2
Fidelity Invest. Global	27.81	26.82	+0.76	+2.74	+8.2
Fidelity Invest. Global	27.81	26.82	+0.76	+2.74	+8.2
Fidelity Invest. Global	27.81	26.82	+0.76	+2.74	+8.2
Fidelity Invest. Global	27.81	26.82	+0.76	+2.74	+8.2

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Nov. 20)	101.9
South Korean won (Nov. 19)	1,043.0
Euro (Nov. 19)	\$1.377
British pound (Nov. 19)	\$1.9
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.37
British pound	\$1.851
Canada (Dollar)	1.205
Denmark (Krone)	5.736
Egypt (Pound)	1.26
Euro	\$1.26
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7
Hungary (Forint)	187.4
Iceland (Krona)	67.03
Israel (Shekel)	4.35

NYSE	AMEX	NASDAQ
Apple 14,113	Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113
Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113
Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113
Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113	Microsoft 14,113
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For non-currency exchange rates, see the U.S. Department of the Treasury's website, www.finance.treasury.gov. For military rates, see the U.S. Department of Defense's website, www.defense.gov. For commercial rates, see the U.S. Department of the Treasury's website, www.finance.treasury.gov. For military rates, see the U.S. Department of Defense's website, www.defense.gov. For commercial rates, see the U.S. Department of the Treasury's website, www.finance.treasury.gov.

PRECIOUS METALS

Gold	1,445.50
Silver	16.78
Palladium	1,445.50
Platinum	1,445.50
Rhodium	1,445.50
Ruthenium	1,445.50
Titanium	1,445.50
Vanadium	1,445.50
Zinc	1,445.50
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Sunday Horoscope

The grand time in water signs highlights deep emotions. What is said and done with great heart will bring fast results. Music and art are the natural expressions of your powerful feelings. But you have to sign up for the karaoke bar to take advantage of these stars — even dodging on your to-do list or humming to yourself brings luck.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(November 21). This year is like a big green light to your personal life. You see that fulfillment is possible, and you're not afraid to embrace what makes you happy. December puts your talent in the spotlight. You'll make a business plan in January. Fleeting it out well is critical to your financial success. Heart connections are lucky with Taurus and Aquarius.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

There's clearly a better way to get things done than the way you witness today. Because nobody else is speaking up, you might be inclined to hold your tongue — be a leader instead. Your encouragement gives strength to the weary.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You don't have to be one of those people who get lost while driving. You admit it, and won't stop and ask for directions! Get input from people who have already arrived. By following advice, you'll gracefully land at your destination.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You do what's right instead of doing what's easy. Because of this, love flows through you, expanding you — not the kind that makes birds sing and daisies grow at your feet, but the kind that comes from self-respect.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

What's inside wants out. When it comes to expressing yourself to people who matter to you, you can't be too creative. How are you going to leave your legacy on somebody's heart?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You're wise, and you've got no time to waste. So just walk away from that person you know is volatile. Saying anything at all will engage this person.

son in his or her madness. It's like fighting fire with oil.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You're too wise to succumb to the myth that what happens in your world makes you feel a certain way. Really, what you think and feel determines what happens in your world. Now, if anyone else would just get that.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Just when you thought you had total control, the power slips through your hands. It's an illusion. Take a walk, and shake it off. You are, as songwriter John Mayer suggests, bigger than your body gives you credit for.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You don't mind being an agitator. After all, it's the grain of sand that makes the oyster form a pearl. Besides, you believe those close to you can do better. As long as people can change, the world can change.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

People close have a way of triggering your defenses. Do the opposite of your initial reaction, and ask if there's anything you can do to snap the other person. Tonight, someone dishy hangs on your every word.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

A family member is trying to lend you support, though it's hard to tell. This is when giving the benefit of the doubt will be most helpful. Don't let it become one of those don't-know-what-you've-got-till-it's-gone situations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You've got something important to say, and it would save big if the whole world stood up turning just to listen to you. Oh well, at least three people will take careful note. That's a start.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Nostalgia sets in. Later, you'll have the same story feeling about what you're doing right now. You play a different role to each person in your life. Try and keep the same role for everyone, though. Consistency is lucky.

Creators Syndicate

Anthems praise nations

I'm curious about the origin of the word "anthem." I can't think of any similar words it might be related to.

"Anthem" is one of our older words, arriving in English before the 12th century. It derives ultimately from the Greek "an-thimos," which in turn is formed from "anti-" plus "phone," meaning "sound."

The oldest sense of "anthem" is the same as the current sense of English "anthiphon": "a line or verse sung as a response from a religious service." "Anthiphon" is a doublet of "anthem," which means that it came into English by a different path (and in this

case, about five hundred years later) but from the same root word.

"Anthem" eventually came to mean "a sacred vocal composition with words usually from the Scriptures," from which sense it developed the more general meaning "a song or hymn of praise or gladness" in the 16th century. It was this general sense that in time led to its use in reference to a composition that serves as the musical symbol of a nation. This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster, Wordwatch, P.O. Box 281, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Coming out isn't family's choice, even if they don't want to know

Dear Abby: I am an openly gay man, out of the closet at work, at college and with friends. I'm out to everyone except my family, who have made it clear that being gay is unacceptable.

I spent years trying to change my sexual orientation, which I now know to be about as achievable as changing the color of my eyes.

I don't know how to come out to my family, or if I even should. The only family member who knows said, "They'll only hear what they want to hear, and they don't want to hear this."

A friend recently asked me what would happen if I was in a relationship. Would I hide forever or come out by saying, "Folks, meet my boyfriend?" He said I should come out for ME, not for them.

Right now I'm confused. One of my family members is disabled and I don't know if the news would kill him.

What's the wisest thing to do? — **Amot** *Out in Canton, Ohio*

Dear Amot: Out in all the time I have been associated with this column — and it's decades since I've never heard of anyone "dying" from being told that a family member is gay. In fact,

the family usually has had some inkling by the time the person chooses to say it.

In your case, the "wisest thing to do" would be to contact Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and request information about how to

come out to your family. At the same time, ask for literature that will help your family understand that sexual orientation isn't something a person "chooses" on a lark, nor is it something for which a person should be punished. PFLAG can be reached at: www.pflag.org, or by e-mail at info@pflag.org.

1726 M St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

I hope your family is willing to broaden their perspective. If not, the loss will be theirs, because it appears you already have other sources of emotional support. Good for you, because people who are happy and involved with others live fuller, more productive lives than those who stay locked in emotional isolation.

Dear Abby: I'm a widowed 48-year-old grandmother raising three beautiful grandchildren, and I've been lucky enough to find a really special man I'll call

Vegetarian visitors making their hosts feel unwelcome

Dear Annie: What do you think of a woman who walks into your house, sniffs the air and says, "I smell pork!" then wrinkles up her nose in disgust? That is my sister-in-law, "Velma." She and her husband are militant vegetarians.

My husband used to visit us every summer and would stay in a small apartment we have over the garage. Since this apartment had no kitchen, they had to cook their meals in our house, using the "untainted" pots and pans they brought with them. We had to stay out of their way until they finished. We were quite willing to prepare vegetable meals for Velma, but she never seemed open to such offers.

Velma's mother recently moved to a retirement home not far from where we live. Velma and her husband now stay in a nearby motel when they visit, so they no longer have to cook their meals in our house.

However, Velma usually arrives a few days ahead of her husband, and she stays at our home until he gets here.

I always thought the whole purpose of a visit is to sit and enjoy talking with one's family and friends and to share a meal. The entire time Velma is here, she barely speaks to me. I feel

like the front desk clerk in a motel. The situation has become so uncomfortable that for the duration so I won't be confronted with her unfriendly attitude. Am I being unreasonable? — **Ignored**

Dear Vermont: Velma is entitled to her eating preferences, but as a guest, she really isn't being particularly gracious.

We're not sure how much effort you've made to engage her in conversation, and you might try harder, but it does sound as if she is not interested in chatting with you — she simply wants the free accommodations. Either ignore her for the few days that she stays at your home, or next time tell her that your house is not available. The choice is yours.

Dear Annie: You printed someone's pet peeve about the improper use of "less" and "fewer." Please print mine. I have two.

The first is the misuse of the apostrophe, either by omitting it in possessives ("the dogs tail") or inserting it in non-possessive plurals ("the dogs' for sale"). My second peeve is the comma splice, in which two complete sentences are joined by a comma, but lack a

"Dale."

I have had four major relationships in my life. The last two have ended with their deaths. The first — my late husband — died in a work-related car accident. The second died of an aortic aneurysm.

Dale has proposed marriage and I said yes; however, my doubts are linked to the adage, "It comes in threes," and I'm afraid I'll lose him too. If this seems silly, I'm sorry. I loved both of the men who died, and after the last one I swore never to love like this again. However, God says, "Never say never." Can you help me?

Dear Abby: **Gan-Shy in Phoenix**

The only thing siller than bowing to your superstitions would be to sacrifice a mutual love out of fear. You can't change what happened in the past, but if you think positive and concentrate on the present, the future will take care of itself. In a sense, we all "place our bets and take our chances" because in life there are no guarantees. The secret is to think positive.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

coordinating conjunction, such as and, or, but ("The water was cold, I'll want swimming any day," she said), or using a preposition who automatically gave an F to any paper, no matter how good, that contained a comma splice.

— **Author in Vermont**

Dear Author: At the risk of having the grammar police on our tails, we are printing your letter and hope people will pay more attention to their punctuation.

Dear Annie: I own a house-cleaning business and have wonderful clients. Last year, for Christmas, I received six wreaths that were beautiful, but, Annie, nobody needs six wreaths.

I don't want to sound unappreciative, but I would like to let clients know that when you really want it is a cash bonus. A big thanks to all the wonderful folks who remember their hard-working givers, but your clients, etc., with a very much-appreciated holiday gift.

Dear Sally: Most employers give their workers a holiday bonus of some kind. For those who wonder what the perfect gift is, your question is the answer.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime writers of the *Anders column*. Please e-mail your questions to ammailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 1700 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90048.

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Dear Abby



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SPECIAL TO STARS AND STRIPES

Walter Scott's Personality PARADE®

Want the facts? Opinions? Truth? Write Walter Scott, Box 5001, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5001. Full name will be used unless otherwise requested. Volume of mail makes personal replies impossible.

Q Can you tell me if Sophia Loren ever makes public appearances? And does she live with her husband or alone? — **Kathy M., Dalton, Ga.**

A Still drop-dead gorgeous at 70, Sophia makes occasional appearances at film festivals and premieres. She lives in Geneva and Los Angeles with Carlo Ponti, 91, her husband of 38 years. And she just finished shooting "La Casa del Gattai," an Italian-language film directed by Lina Wertmüller. The movie may come to theaters in America if it finds a buyer, but there's none at this time.

Q I attended a screening of "Callas Forever" and wondered if Jeremy Irons plays a real person from the great opera diva's life. — **John Thomas, Cleveland**

A No, but my role is based in part on [director] Franco Zeffirelli, who worshipped Maria's talent," says Irons, 56. "I chose to play the character as gay to explore his nonsexual friendship with Maria." "Callas Forever" — starring Fanny Ardant as the diva, who died in 1977 — opens state-side this month. Irons is now in Venice shooting a Casanova tale (still untitled) starring Heath Ledger. He previously was there with Al Pacino to film "The Merchant of Venice," which opens next month.

Q This month's election made me wonder: Whatever happened to Amy Carter? — **Irene Brungarber, Pittsburgh**

A Carter, 37, lives in Atlanta with Hugo, 5, her son by James Wentzel, whom she wed in 1996. An artist, Amy illustrated two books by her father, "Jimmy: The Little Baby Snoogle-Fleejer" and "Christmas in Plains."

Q Will Robin and Barry Gibb record again as the Bee Gees without their brother Maurice, who died last year? — **Lorraine Bybee, Modesto, Calif.**

A No, but a compilation album, "Bee Gees Number Ones," came out this month. After "Mo" died at 53 from an intestinal blockage, twin brother Robin recorded a solo album and began a European tour. Barry, 58, initially went into hibernation but has emerged to write and produce two songs for British pop star Cliff Richard.

Q Olympic gold medalist Oksana Baiul crashed her Mercedes in 1997 while intoxicated. Has she quit drinking? — **Michael Anderson, Albany, N.Y.**

A "I spent 3½ months in rehab," Oksana, 27, tells us. "Now I do no drinking at all." But she still skates and will compete in "Ice Wars" early next month on CBS. She also launched a line of skating apparel with her fiancé, Gene Sunik, 31. The couple live in New Jersey with their three Chihuahuas. The dogs don't skate.

Q Colin Farrell displays a terrific singing voice in the film "InterMission." Does he plan to pursue a music career? — **C.S., Portland, Maine**

A Not likely. The hard-partying Irish lad is too busy with his day job (being a movie star) and night job (drinking, smoking, seducing women) for a recording career. But his version of "I Fought the Law" is on the "InterMission" soundtrack. You can see Farrell, 28, in Oliver Stone's "Alexander," opening on overseas bases in two weeks.



Check magnet Colin Farrell adds singing, as well as acting, to his workday talents.



"Law and Order" actor Jesse L. Martin, who plays detective Ed Green, has onstage singing and dancing on his résumé.



Once Martha Stewart's prison reality experience ends, she's got a reality television show in the works.

Q What does Martha Stewart plan to do when she gets out of the slammer next year? — **Natalie D., Dayton, Ohio**

A Begin developing a reality TV show with producer Mark Burnett ("Survivor," "The Apprentice"), probably with contestants vying for her favor.

Q New York-based "Law & Order" often casts from the Broadway talent pool. Does Jesse L. Martin have a stage background? — **Donald Bennett, Nyack, N.Y.**

A Yes. The handsome star made his Broadway debut in 1993 in "Timon of Athens." He later originated the role of Tom Collins, the philosophy teacher with HIV, in the 1996 Tony-winning musical "Rent." NBC persuaded Martin, 35, to sing again in a musical version of "A Christmas Carol," airing state-side next Sunday.

Q Does director Quentin Tarantino have plans to make "Kill Bill Vol. 3"? — **J. Mack, Reading, Conn.**

A Tarantino, 41, tells us he'd love to make a third "Kill Bill," this time from the perspective of the daughter of Vivica A. Fox's character when she is old enough for revenge. Since she's only 4 when her mom dies, it probably will be at least 15 years. Tarantino is now directing a segment of "Sin City" and will appear in "The Muppets' Wizard of Oz."



Director Quentin Tarantino is seriously considering a third "Kill Bill" chapter.

AM WEEKLY RADIO

JAPAN - KANTO

EAGLE 810
Morning (Sun)
 9:00 Religious Programming
 9:00 Eagle 810 Sunday Brunch (Smooth Jazz)
Afternoon
 12:00 American Country Countdown
 4:00 A Prairie Home Companion
Evening
 6:00 Focus on the Family
 6:30 Travel Radio
 7:00 Dr. Laura
 8:00 Beale Street Caravan
 9:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)
 12:00 2-Z Rock (Alternative/Non-Fri)
 12:00 Sports Overnight
 4:00 NPR's Talk of the Nation Live (Tue-Fri)
 4:00 NPR on the Media (Mon)
 9:00 NPR Living on Earth (Mon-Fri)
Morning (Mon-Fri)
 6:00 Eagle 810 Morning Show (Contemporary Hits)
 7:00 Paul Harvey News and Commentary
 7:30 The Afterburner
 7:24 Paul Harvey Rest of the Story
 7:38 Eagle 810 News
 7:30 Zama Commanders Corner (1st Friday)
 7:30 Zama Commanders Corner (2nd & 4th Friday)
 Yokota/USFJ Chiefs Corner (3rd Friday)
 8:00 Retro Cafe (7th, 8th, 9th)
Afternoon
 12:00 Paul Harvey News and Commentary
 12:21 Air Force Radio News
 13:00 Top 40 Music
 3:00 Traffic Jam (Current Chart Hits)
 6:00 Pacific Report
 4:00 AFN Sportscape
 4:12 Paul Harvey Rest of the Story
Evening
 6:00 from the Bench Live Sports (Wed)
 6:00 NPR's Morning Edition Live
 6:00 Zama Commanders Corner (1st & 3rd Thursday)
 8:00 Rush Limbaugh
 9:00 The Touch (Urban): Mon/Country: Tue/Thurs Gold (Oldies): Wed/Rock (Oldies): Fri
 12:00 2-Z Rock (Alternative)
 12:00 Sports Overnight
 4:00 NPR's Talk of the Nation Live
Morning (Sat)
 8:00 NPR's All Things Considered Live
 8:05 Car Talk
 9:00 Kim Komando
 10:00 Classic Rock
Afternoon
 12:00 Rick Dees Weekly Top 40
 4:00 2-Z Rock (Alternative)
 6:00 Hot Jazz Saturday Night
 7:00 The Touch (Urban)
 12:00 2-Z Rock (Alternative)
 2:00 Sports Overnight America
 5:00 Adult Contemporary
POWER 1575
Morning (Sun)
 7:00 NPR's All Things Considered

8:00 Rush Limbaugh
 9:00 Hot AC
 10:00 Che's Table
 11:00 Sports Overnight America
Afternoon
 12:00 Adult Rock
 12:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)
Evening
 7:00 Hot AC
 10:00 The Touch (Urban)
 12:00 The Touch (Urban)
 12:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)
Morning (Mon-Fri)
 6:00 Morning Air Strike
 10:00 Paul Harvey News
 7:10 Hour Radio
 8:30 Inside Nakaguchi Radio News
 8:30 Rest of the Story
 8:35 David Letterman/Leno
 9:00 Country Call Up
 10:00 Bright AC/Oldies (Fri)
 11:00 Urban Accusult
Afternoon
 1:00 2-Z Rock/Golden Oldies (Fri)
 2:00 The Afterburner
 2:30 Inside Nakaguchi Radio News
 2:34 Rest of the Story
 2:36 Pacific Report
 3:30 Paul Harvey News
 3:40 AFN Sportscape
 4:00 Departure Time
Evening
 6:00 NPR's Air
 7:00 The Rock Show (Mon/Old School Thu)
 12:00 Adult Rock
 12:00 The Touch (Urban)
Morning (Sat)
 10:00 Top 40 Music
 6:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)
 10:00 Soundbait
Afternoon
 2:00 Rick Dees Weekly Top 40
Evening
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered
 8:00 The Touch
 12:00 2-Z Rock
 5:00 Hot AC

6:00 Matt in the Morning
 9:00 Hot AC
Afternoon
 12:00 Classic Rock
 12:00 Edge Afternoon Radio
Evening
 8:00 Adult Rock
 8:00 R&B
 10:00 Hot AC
Morning (Fri)
 12:00 2-Z Rock
 2:00 Classic Rock
 4:00 Sports Overnight America
 5:00 Rush Limbaugh
 6:00 Matt in the Morning
 9:00 Flashback
 7:30 Hot AC
Afternoon
 12:00 Classic Rock
 1:00 Inside the Line
 3:00 That Country Show
Evening
 6:00 Classic Rock
 8:00 R&B
 10:00 Hot AC
Morning (Sat)
 12:00 2-Z Rock
 2:00 Classic Rock
 4:00 Hot AC
 3:40 AFN Sportscape
 8:00 Car Talk
 9:00 Saturday Retro
Afternoon
 12:00 Rick Dees
 3:00 Australia Musica
 5:00 Kim Komando
Evening
 6:00 Jim Rome
 7:00 2-Z Rock
 9:00 Hot AC

JAPAN - SASEBO

THUNDER RADIO 1575
Morning (Sunday)
 12:00 Top 40
 4:00 Soft Hits
 7:00 Religious Programming
 10:00 Focus on the Family
 10:30 The Environmental Show
 11:00 Sports Traveler
Afternoon
 12:00 American Country Countdown
Evening
 6:00 Classic Rock
 9:00 2-Z Rock
Morning (Mon-Fri)
 12:00 Soft Hits
 3:00 Oldies
 6:00 Rush Limbaugh
 6:00 Morning Drive
Afternoon
 12:00 The "Jam" with Nikki V. (Mon, Wed and Fri)
 12:00 Urban Music (Tue and Thu)
 3:00 "The Rush"
Evening
 6:00 Classic Rock
 9:00 Top 40

JAPAN - MISAWA

THE EDGE - AM 1575
Morning (Sun)
 12:00 2-Z Rock
 2:00 Classic Rock
Evening
 8:00 NPR's All Things Considered Live
 8:05 Car Talk
 9:00 Kim Komando
 10:00 Classic Rock
Afternoon
 12:00 Rick Dees Weekly Top 40
 4:00 2-Z Rock (Alternative)
 6:00 Hot Jazz Saturday Night
 7:00 The Touch (Urban)
 12:00 2-Z Rock (Alternative)
 2:00 Sports Overnight America
 5:00 Adult Contemporary
POWER 1575
Morning (Sun)
 7:00 NPR's All Things Considered

FM WEEKLY RADIO

JAPAN — YOKOTA

FM CABLE Radio Services (On Base Only)
2-Z Rock (Alternative) 90.3 FM
Eagle 810 (Variety) 90.7 FM
National Public Radio (News, Talk) 91.3 FM
Bright AC (Pop) 91.7 FM
The Touch (Classic Rock) 92.3 FM
The Touch (Urban) 92.7 FM
Country 93.3 FM
Pure Gold (Oldies) 93.7 FM
Hot AC (Today's Hits) 94.3 FM
National Public Radio
Morning (Sun)
 6:00 Weekend All Things Considered
 8:00 The WMFT Beethoven Network
 11:00 Piano Jazz
Afternoon
 1:00 Beethoven Network
 1:00 Weekend All Things Considered
 2:00 Dialogue
 2:30 Uncommon Knowledge
 3:00 The WMFT Jazz Network
 5:00 Jazz Profiles
Evening
 6:00 Walt, Wait Don't Tell Me
 7:00 A Prairie Home Companion
 9:00 Weekend Edition Sunday
 11:00 Justice Talking
 12:00 Fresh Air Weekend
 12:00 The American Life
 2:00 A Show with Harry Shearer
 3:00 on the Media
 4:00 Newsweek Radio
 5:00 Weekly Edition

Morning (Mon)
 6:00 Weekend All Things Considered
 8:00 The WMFT Beethoven Network
Afternoon
 1:00 Weekend All Things Considered
 2:00 Fresh Air Weekend
 3:00 The WMFT Jazz Network
 5:00 Morning Edition
 11:00 The Diane Rehm Show (call in)
 12:00 The Connection (call in)
 2:00 Walt, Wait Don't Tell Me
 3:00 Talk of the Nation (call in)
 5:00 All Things Considered
Morning (Tue-Fri)
 7:00 The World
 8:00 Marketplace
 8:30 Says You (Tue) Latino USA (Wed)
 Living on Earth (Thu) Uncommon Knowledge (Fri) Rewind (Sat)
 9:00 The WMFT Beethoven Network
Afternoon
 1:00 All Things Considered
 3:00 The WMFT Jazz Network
Evening
 6:00 Morning Edition
 11:00 The Diane Rehm Show (call in)
 12:00 The Connection (call in)
 2:00 Walt, Wait Don't Tell Me (Tue-
 Wed)/Says You (Wed) Newsweek
 (Thu) Car Talk (Fri) Dialogue/
 Uncommon Knowledge (Sat)
 3:00 Talk of the Nation (call in)
 5:00 All Things Considered
Morning (Sat)
 7:00 The World
 8:00 Marketplace
 8:30 Rewind
 9:00 The WMFT Beethoven Network

Afternoon
 1:00 All Things Considered
 3:00 The WMFT Jazz Network
 5:00 WMFT Jazz
Evening
 6:00 Thistle & Shamrock
 7:00 Weekly Edition
 8:00 Rewind
 8:30 Says You
 9:00 Weekend Edition Saturday
 11:00 Car Talk (call in)
 12:00 Fresh Air
 1:00 Weekend Edition Saturday
 3:00 Hot Jazz Saturday Night
 5:00 National Press Club

KOREA

EAGLE FM
Morning (Sun)
 12:00 2-Z Rock
 4:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
 8:00 Christian Contemporary
 9:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
 10:00 Saturday Night 80's
Afternoon
 12:00 Bob Kingsley's Country Count-
 down
 4:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
Evening
 9:00 2-Z Rock
Morning (Mon-Fri)
 12:00 2-Z Rock
 5:00 Live Local Show (Seoul, Ulsan,
 Incheon, Taegu and Gwangju)
 10:00 Live Local Show (Seoul, Taegu
 and Gwangju)
Afternoon
 1:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
 3:00 Live Local Show (Korea-wide)
Evening
 9:00 Adult Rock

8:00 Adult Contemporary
 9:00 Adult Rock
Morning (Sat)
 12:00 2-Z Rock
 5:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
 8:00 Saturday Morning Wake-up
 12:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
Evening
 9:00 Adult Rock

OKINAWA

FM - WAVE 89.1
Morning (Sun)
 12:00 Adult Rock
 4:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
Afternoon
 12:00 American Country Countdown
 4:00 Adult Contemporary (Hot AC)
Morning (Mon-Fri)
 5:00 Morning Show (live)
 9:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
 11:00 Wave Break (live)
Afternoon
 1:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
 2:00 Afternoon Show (live)
 6:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
 10:00 Adult Contemporary (Hot AC)
Morning (Sat)
 12:00 Adult Rock
 4:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
 8:00 Saturday Show (live)
 11:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
Afternoon
 12:00 Rick Dees Weekly Top 40
 4:00 Adult Rock
 6:00 Adult Contemporary (Hot AC)

Morning (Saturday)
 12:00 Top 40
 4:00 Classic Rock
 7:00 All Things Considered
 7:30 Best of Our Knowledge
 8:00 Oldies
 10:00 Car Talk
 11:00 Dr. Phil 40 Show (live)

Afternoon
 12:00 Rick Dees American Top 40
 4:00 Australia Musica
 5:00 Country
Evening
 8:00 Urban

KOREA

Thunder AM
Morning (Sun)
 12:00 Country
 5:00 NPR Weekly Edition
 7:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
 10:00 Australia Musica
Afternoon
 12:00 Oldies Radio
 4:00 Sports Overnight America
Evening
 6:00 NPR Car Talk
 7:00 Prairie Home Companion
 8:00 NPR Weekend Edition Sunday
 11:00 Country
Morning (Mon)
 5:00 NPR
 7:00 Morning Report
 7:30 This Week with Sam & Cokie
 8:00 Classic Rock
Afternoon
 12:00 Noon Report
 12:35 News & Views
 1:00 Dr. Laura
 2:00 Country
 4:00 Sports
Evening
 6:00 Evening Report
 6:30 Sports Byline
 7:00 Rush Limbaugh
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition
 10:00 Country
Morning (Tue-Fri)
 12:00 Country
 7:00 Morning Report
 7:30 NPR's Market Place
 8:00 Oldies Radio
Afternoon
 12:00 Sports Report
 12:35 News & Views
 1:00 Dr. Laura
 2:00 Country
 5:00 Jim Rome Show
 6:00 Evening Report
 6:30 Sports Byline
 7:00 Rush Limbaugh
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition
 10:00 Adult Rock
Morning (Sat)
 12:00 Adult Rock
 12:00 Adult All Things Considered
 7:00 Oldies Radio
Afternoon

OKINAWA

SURF 648 AM
Morning (Sunday)
 6:00 Adult Rock (cont.)
Afternoon
 2:00 Sports Overnight America (live)
Evening
 7:00 Ben Maller & Jason Smith - Sports (live)
 8:00 Adult Rock
 12:00 Country
Morning (Mon)
 7:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 8:00 Adult Rock
 11:00 Jim Jammy (live) Sports
Afternoon
 12:00 Steve Scheraga
 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)
 2:00 Adult Rock
 4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded)
 5:00 Sports Overnight America
Evening
 7:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live)
 11:00 Country
 1:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (live)
 2:00 Country
Morning (Tue-Thu)
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 8:00 Adult Rock
 11:00 Sports
Afternoon
 12:00 The Jim Rome Show (recorded)
 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)
 2:00 Adult Rock
 4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded)
 5:00 Sports Overnight America
Evening
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live)
 11:00 Country (live)
Morning (Fri)
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 8:00 Adult Rock
 11:00 FOX Sports
Afternoon
 12:00 The Jim Rome Show (recorded)
 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)
 2:00 Adult Rock
 4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded)
 5:00 Sports Overnight America
Evening
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live)
 11:00 Country (live)
Morning (Sat)
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 8:00 Adult Rock
 10:00 Adult Rock
 12:00 The Jim Rome Show (recorded)
 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)
 2:00 Adult Rock
 3:00 Sports Overnight America (live)
Evening
 6:00 Adult Rock
 (Note: The schedule is subject to change due to sports schedules.)

AM RADIO SPORTS AND SPECIALS

OKINAWA

Saturday Morning
 6:30 College Football: Oklahoma Sooners at Baylor Bears
 6:30 College Football: Wisconsin Badgers at Iowa Hawkeyes
 6:45 College Football: Florida Gators at Florida State Seminoles
Sunday Morning
 6:00 NFL: Pittsburgh Steelers at Cincinnati Bengals
 6:00 NFL: Washington Redskins at Philadelphia Eagles
 10:30 NFL: Sunday Night Football - Green Bay Packers at Houston Texans
Monday Morning
 11:00 NFL: Monday Night Football - New England Patriots at Kansas City Chiefs

KOREA

Saturday Morning
 6:30 College Football: Oklahoma Sooners at Baylor Bears
 6:30 College Football: Wisconsin Badgers at Iowa Hawkeyes
 6:45 College Football: Florida Gators at Florida State Seminoles
Sunday Morning
 6:00 NFL: Pittsburgh Steelers at Cincinnati Bengals
 6:00 NFL: Washington Redskins at Philadelphia Eagles
 10:30 NFL: Sunday Night Football - Green Bay Packers at Houston Texans
Monday Morning
 11:00 NFL: Monday Night Football - New England Patriots at Kansas City Chiefs

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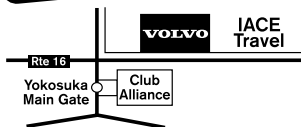
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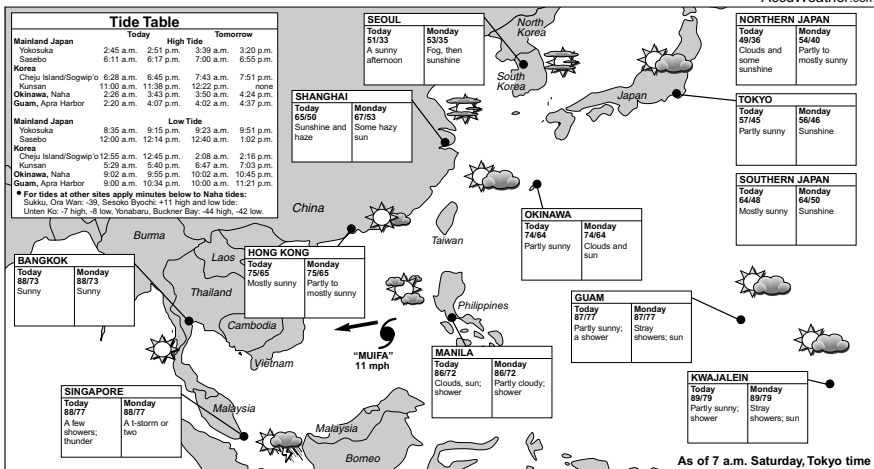
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The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high 58, low 51.
Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 64, low 51.

KADENA

Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 76, low 66.
Wednesday: Mostly cloudy, high 76, low 68.

SEOUL

Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 55, low 32.
Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 45, low 17.

MANILA

Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 72.
Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 72.

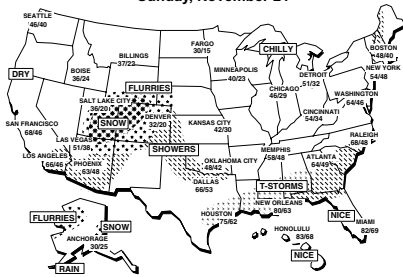
HAGATNA

Tuesday: Showers, high 87, low 77.
Wednesday: Showers, high 85, low 77.

Friday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	58/38	Los Angeles	73/52
Amarillo	61/37	Little Rock	65/51
Anchorage	36/28	Louisville	64/53
Asheville	68/48	Miami	81/68
Baltimore	64/49	Milwaukee	50/45
Birmingham	63/55	Nashville	63/52
Bismark	51/25	New York	63/46
Boise	43/22	Omaha	55/35
Boston	62/37	Orlando	81/60
Brownsville	89/70	Philadelphia	64/47
Buffalo	54/42	Phoenix	74/55
Burlington	51/27	Pittsburgh	57/50
Charleston, SC	75/57	Portland, OR	50/34
Charlotte	74/54	Portland, ME	61/31
Cleveland	57/48	Salt Lake City	44/25
Columbus, OH	60/50	St. Louis	60/48
Duluth	42/33	San Antonio	76/60
El Paso	66/44	San Diego	67/56
Hartford	61/34	San Juan	84/74
Helena	41/21	Tampa	81/64
Indianapolis	60/49	Tulsa	61/44
Jacksonville	79/60	Washington	63/49
Kansas City	59/40	Wichita	56/41

Sunday, November 21



U.S. Extended Forecast

A storm system will bring rain and mountain snow showers to the Southwest and the southern Plains Sunday. Some snow will also fall across northern Kansas and Nebraska as the precipitation meets up with the cold air plunging southward. An upper-level trough of low pressure is the culprit for the seasonably chilly air filtering into the Rockies and Plains. Despite dry weather, gusty winds will howl across Southern California. Meanwhile, a low pressure center will develop off the Northeast coast and bring some showers to New England. Along the associated cold front, showers will develop across parts of the Southeast and along the Gulf Coast.

Sunday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	88/73	Iwakuni	59/44
Beijing	47/33	Kadena AB	74/64
Camp Casey	53/33	Kunsan AB	54/39
Christchurch	62/43	Kwajalein	89/79
Diego Garcia	86/78	Manila	88/77
Hagatna	87/77	Masawa AB	55/35
Hanoi	76/65	Osan	53/33
Hong Kong	75/65	Pearl Harbor	87/68
Honolulu	83/68	Pusan	59/44
		Seaside NB	62/49
		Sapporo	49/36
		Seoul	51/33
		Shanghai	65/50
		Sydney	88/77
		Taipei	71/52
		Tel Aviv	57/37
		Tokyo	74/62
		Yokosuka	57/45

Sunday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	90/73	Budapest	33/23
Athens	47/34	Buenos Aires	77/63
Auckland	67/53	Caro	77/50
Baghdad	76/50	Caracas	82/70
Barbados	87/72	Cape Town	63/44
Barcelona	57/47	Geneva	41/40
Berlin	38/28	Istanbul	41/27
Bermuda	70/58	Jerusalem	68/45
Brussels	39/39	Johannesburg	84/56
		Kabul	58/27
		Nairobi	81/55
		New Delhi	86/65
		Oslo	28/22
		Paris	61/46
		Rio de Janeiro	43/40
		Rome	48/39
		St. Petersburg	19/10
		Stockholm	24/19
		Warsaw	27/19



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Giants QB Manning will face tough defense in debut

BY DAVE GOLDBERG
The Associated Press

When it was announced Eli Manning would start for the New York Giants against Atlanta on Sunday, the Falcons quickly became 2½-point favorites in a game that opened at pick 'em.

Ben Roethlisberger's success aside, that's the perception of rookie quarterbacks — they cost their team almost a field goal, especially when they have a leaky offensive line and are facing a good pass rush.

But Tom Coughlin made the switch in part because Kurt Warner has been tentative in the Giants' last four games, three of them losses. Coughlin's reasoning: Manning gets rid of the ball faster and is at the point where he's comfortable with the system.

Both teams are like most of the league — unpredictable.

In losing three of four, the Giants were beaten by Detroit and Chicago at home and by Arizona on the road, all games they could have (some say "should have") won. They won at Minnesota as an underdog.

The Falcons were beaten in Kansas City 56-10 but came back the next week to win at Denver.

One more thing: The Giants have lost at home to Atlanta in each of the last two seasons, but Michael Vick was hurt both times. Two years ago, Doug

NFL picks

Johnson was the quarterback, last year it was Kurt Kittinger. Johnson is now Tennessee's third-stringer, and Kittinger has been cut this year by the Falcons, Bengals, Giants, Patriots and Steelers.

Because neither Johnson nor Kittinger is playing this week, and because New York's offensive line — which has allowed 24 sacks in the last four games — will be cut en masse if it doesn't protect the future of the franchise ... **GIANTS, 20-19.**

New England (minus 3) at Kansas City (Monday night): Another one of those Monday nighters that looked good on paper when it was scheduled. The Patriots play fast and loose now that the burden of the streak is off. ... **PATRIOTS, 34-20.**

Indianapolis (minus 7) at Chicago: Lovie Smith should be a coach of the year candidate for winning three straight with Craig Krenzel at QB. But he doesn't have Brian Urlacher on his side, and Peyton Manning plays for the other guys. ... **COLTS, 27-17.**

Pittsburgh (minus 4½) at Cincinnati: The Steelers keep the hammer down. ... **STEELERS, 27-13.**

Washington (plus 10½) at Phil-



New York Giants rookie QB Eli Manning will make his first start behind an offensive line that has allowed 24 sacks in the past four games.

adelphia: The Redskins' defense can control the Eagles to a point. But that Washington offense ... **EAGLES, 23-6.**

Dallas (plus 8) at Baltimore: The way the Cowboys are playing

defense, even the plodding Ravens' offense can score. ... **RAVENS, 24-13.**

Green Bay (minus 3) at Houston: Another offensive challenge for the Texans, who have allowed

80 points in their last two games.

... **PACKERS, 34-27.**
Denver (minus 4) at New Orleans: Who knows with the Saints, but ... **BRONCOS, 31-20.**

San Diego (minus-4) at Oakland: There's no reason for a San Diego slide here. ... **CHARGERS, 37-27.**

Tennessee (off) at Jacksonville: David Garrard will be a big-time QB some day. ... **JAGUARS, 20-3.**

New York Jets (pick 'em) at Cleveland: No trick plays, Herman ... **JETS, 22-20.**

Detroit (plus 7½) at Minnesota: The Vikings' losing streak ends here. ... **VIKINGS, 27-20.**

St. Louis (minus 1) at Buffalo: Remember that the Rams are the only team to lose to Miami. ... **BILLS, 24-20.**

Miami (plus 10) at Seattle: The Seahawks might be as unpredictable as the Rams. But they won't lose to the Dolphins. ... **SEA-HAWKS, 24-13.**

San Francisco (plus 8) at Tampa Bay: The 49ers are fighting for the No. 1 draft pick. ... **BUCS, 27-10.**

Arizona (off) at Carolina: "Off" is for Jake Delhomme. "Coach of the Year" is for Dennis Green if Cards make playoffs. ... **CARDINALS, 20-17.**

Last week: 4-10 (spread), 8-6 (straight up).

Season: 71-71-2 (spread), 92-52 (straight up).

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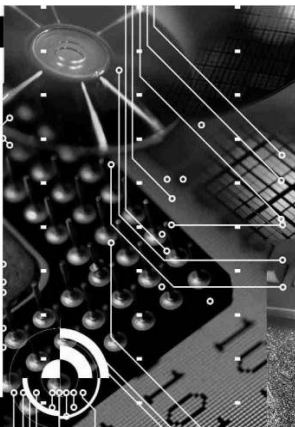


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NFL's top runner passes on praise

Seahawks RB Alexander credits offensive line for success on ground

By TIM KORTE
The Associated Press

KIRKLAND, Wash. — Shaun Alexander has always had a knack for getting into the end zone. Lately, Seattle's offensive line has been making it easy for the Seahawks running back to find the open lanes and open field, too.

"Our line's on fire," Alexander said. "They are the best in the NFL, and they're playing like it. They're showing everyone. I just get the honor of running behind them. I'm just trying to match their intensity every game."

After running for 176 yards in last week's loss at St. Louis, Alexander was the NFL's leading rusher with 1,055 yards. He has posted three consecutive 100-yard games and is averaging 117.2 yards per game.

"We've been gaining a lot of yards," coach Mike Holmgren said.

"Shaun has been doing a nice job of running."

It didn't happen by accident.

Seattle's running game has been in a groove over the past three games — since Holmgren said he wanted to simplify things for quarterback Matt Hasselbeck and "force-feed" the ball to Alexander.

"As a lineman, you always feel you can do a little more," guard Steve Hutchinson said. "I think we took it as a little bit of a call-out. Maybe we weren't doing a good enough job."

"Our line's on fire."

Shaun Alexander
Seahawks RB

Alexander — a free agent after this season — gained 195 yards rushing and ran for a touchdown in a win over Carolina on Oct. 31, then went for 160 yards with two TDs when Seattle (5-3) won the next week at San Francisco.

"We tried to step up our game a little," Hutchinson said.

"Shaun runs hard all the time. I think we just got on the same page a little better. We got our blocks in sync with where he's looking to hit it."

On paper, it looks like another good weekend for Alexander. The injury-ravaged Miami Dolphins (1-8) are the second-worst de-



Seattle Seahawks RB Shaun Alexander (37) took the NFL rushing lead with 176 yards in a loss to St. Louis last Sunday.

fense in the NFL against the run. They have allowed an average 145.6 yards rushing per game.

"Shaun is so patient," Dolphins linebacker Zach Thomas said. "He waits for blocks to happen instead of just going downhill and hitting the hole. He does a great job with patience. We've just got to have guys fill the gaps."

Alexander, whose 12 TDs rank second in the NFL, said he never looks at the statistics. Instead, he studies film and considers matchups between his teammates and the opponents they'll line up against.

Even without injured linebacker Junior Seau and tackle Tim Bowens, who both are out for the season, Alexander believes the Dolphins are talented on defense.

"They just haven't played fully together against the run, and that's really dangerous," he said. "Next thing you know, they get hot. Who knows how good their defense could be?"

Edwards backs Dungy's criticism of MNF opening

From wire reports

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Although he did not agree with his longtime friend's assertion that it was racially insensitive, New York Jets coach Herman Edwards

NFL briefs

backed Tony Dungy's criticism of the controversial opening segment to "Monday Night Football."

"I've known Tony Dungy for over 20-something years," Edwards said Thursday. "If he said it in that tone, and that manner, if you're asking me am I taking sides? Yeah, I'm taking his side."

Dungy, the Colts' coach, took ABC to task for airing an introduction to Monday's Eagles-Cowboys game that depicted actress Nicole Sheridan wearing only a towel. She dropped the towel and leaped into the arms of Eagles receiver Terrell Owens, who joked that his teammates would have to play the game without him.

Dungy said the segment was in poor taste, unsuitable for young viewers and racially offensive.

Owens is black, Sheridan is white.

"I know where he's coming from and I know what kind of man he is," said Edwards, who did not endorse Dungy's assertions about racial sensitivities. "I don't know about the racial thing and all that, a black player and not a black woman. If you want to make something out of that, I don't know about all that."

But Edwards, who said he hadn't seen the segment, backed

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis:
Bills: WR Josh Reed (knee) out; CB Troy Vincent will (re)see out.

Buccaners: DT Anthony Mearland (arm right triceps) out for the season.
Cardinals: RB Ernie Smith (sprained ankle) questionable; DE Bertrand Berry (bruised thigh) questionable; LB Karlos Dansby (strained neck) questionable.

Panthers: QB Jake Delhomme (fractured right thumb) questionable.
Steelers: RB Duane McArthur (core hamstring) doubtful.

Titans: QB Steve McNair (bruised chest) questionable.

Dungy's assertion that the stunt was bad for the NFL.

"I'm not trying to be the judge of anybody, because I work in the league and I respect the league," Edwards said. "It's a privilege for me to be a part of this league. All money's not good money. At the end of the day, you've got to remember that."

Edwards said he would never have allowed one of his players to do what Owens did.

Seattle QB Hasselbeck downgraded to questionable

KIRKLAND, Wash. — Seahawks quarterback Matt Hasselbeck did not practice Friday and has been downgraded from probable to questionable for Sunday's game against Miami.

Hasselbeck has been sidelined this week after bruising his thigh during a 23-12 loss at St. Louis last weekend. He collided with running back Shaun Alexander on the first play.

If Hasselbeck doesn't play, Trent Dilfer will start for the Seahawks (5-4).



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Hot out, Spurrier in at South Carolina

Former Notre Dame coach to retire; reports say ex-Florida coach will take over

BY PETE IACOBELLI

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Lou Holtz wanted his South Carolina players to focus on their game against Clemson. They suddenly have a lot more on their minds.

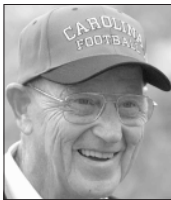
Holtz will retire as coach of South Carolina after the season. The Associated Press learned Thursday night, apparently paving the way for Steve Spurrier to replace him.

Holtz told his players before the team's final regular-season practice, according to a source close to the program who spoke on condition of anonymity. All season, the 67-year-old Holtz said he was worn out, and even said Spurrier would be a good coach to succeed him.

On Wednesday, South Carolina cornerback Fred Bennett said Holtz promised the players he would tell them first when he decided about next year. "So I respect him for that," Bennett said.

A report in The Tennessee of Nashville had Spurrier taking over and the announcement coming next week. Other reports said Spurrier and South Carolina agreed to a contract between \$1.5 million and \$2 million.

If Spurrier decides to coach the Gamecocks, he would face his former team next season on Nov. 12, when Florida comes to Williams-Brice Stadium.



South Carolina coach Lou Holtz, 67, has said during this season that he has felt worn down.

An announcement regarding Spurrier, who won a national championship at Florida, is expected next week, the newspaper said, citing an anonymous source close to the situation.

South Carolina athletic director Mike McGee would not confirm or deny the reports. Several calls to Spurrier's agent, Jimmy Sexton, were not returned.

Holtz wanted the Gamecocks (6-4) concentrating on the Tigers (5-5). A victory Saturday would give the school its first seven-win season since 2001 and probably earn a bowl appearance. A defeat would be South Carolina's fifth in six years of the series since Holtz

arrived. And it would be another slap after last year's 63-17 loss that Holtz said left him as embarrassed as ever.

South Carolina quarterback Syvelle Newton could tell Holtz was especially intense this week — and not necessarily because he's leaving.

"We don't worry about any of that," Newton said. "We love Coach Holtz and whatever he does, that's for after the season. We're only thinking about Clemson."

Holtz has said that the atmosphere surrounding the South Carolina-Clemson game at Death Valley reminded him of his last game at Notre Dame.

"Not that I'm saying this is my last game," Holtz said. "The decision was already made and Bob Davie was going to replace me. I wanted a terrible week of practice. We were 8-2 and had a young football team and we were playing Southern Cal."

"We played probably the worst football game I've ever had," the ball team play, yet we were up by eight points and missed an extra point. With about a minute-and-a-half to go, USC forced an extra point and tied the game and we lost in overtime. We had five turnovers and all kinds of penalties."

Holtz had opened the door for talk of his future. He said several times that he's worn out and tired



Steve Spurrier, 12-20 in two NFL seasons, has the highest winning percentage in SEC history.

from the season. Holtz went through a troubling offseason in which he let go four longtime assistants and took the offense away from his son, Skip. Holtz then went to work on a project he called "changing the culture" at South Carolina. He taught weekly sessions with his players on being good teammates, accountability and citizenship.

While Holtz hasn't delivered on the South Carolina conference and national titles he spoke of during his welcoming news conference in December 1998, he's the only coach in Gamecocks history with two bowl victories.

Holtz thinks the team's talent

level is up, along with discipline, commitment and academics. He feels the program is in much better shape than a year ago, when the blowout loss to Clemson knocked South Carolina out of a bowl bid.

"I still say there's a lot of solid things," Holtz said. "We'll find out Saturday."

Spurrier and Holtz are friends. Spurrier helped Holtz's wife, Beth, obtain an appointment with Florida's NCAA faculty adviser Dr. Nicholas Gossari for treatment for throat cancer. When Beth Holtz was in the university's surgical center, Spurrier's wife, Jenni, checked on her several times to see what she needed.

"He didn't have to do any of that," Holtz said in 1999. "He's got a lot of strong things on his mind. I was out of coaching."

Spurrier, 59, went 20-13 in three seasons at Duke before taking over at Florida, his alma mater, in 1990. The Gators won six Southeastern Conference championships and the 1996 national title under Spurrier. He posted 122 victories over 12 seasons, tormented opponents with his offensive flair and witty one-liners, and left town with the best winning percentage in league history.

Spurrier abruptly left after the 2001 season, taking over for the Washington Redskins. He resigned after two seasons with a 12-20 record.

Shelled: But enrages Terps coach

SHELLED, FROM BACK PAGE

Randall said the easy victory was a welcome change.

"I'll take a victory like this any day," he said. "We got the momentum early, it stayed with us and they were on their heels the whole game."

It was a loss that didn't sit well with Maryland coach Ralph Friedgen, who has guided the Terps to bowl games in each of his last three seasons.

"Obviously, I'm not reaching these kids," an angry Friedgen said. "I just have to sit back and re-evaluate everything I can tell you about — I'm not very good at this. You won't see me around here a whole long time if we do this whole lot of stuff we don't have to fire me. I'll quit."

Tailback Mike Imoh scored both early touchdowns — one on a fourth-down 1-yard drive and then left with a strained left hamstring.

But it hardly mattered. Jimmy Williams returned an interception 24 yards for a touchdown. Justin Hamilton scored on a 5-yard run and the Hokies cruised.

Things never got better for the Terps (4-6). They had to use three quarterbacks, had five turnovers and managed two field goals.



Virginia Tech tailback Mike Imoh (20) gets past Maryland's David Holloway to score a touchdown.

The trouble started right away for the Terps and sophomore quarterback Joel Statham, whose third pass was intercepted by James Griffin and returned 11 yards to the Maryland 29. Five runs by Imoh made it 7-0.

After a false start to begin the next series, Statham connected with Derrick Penner, who was quickly stripped of the ball by James Anderson, and Mikal Baagoe recovered for the Hokies at the 17.

Three plays later, Imoh ran it in from the 6, hurt his hamstring and watched the rest of the rout.

Randall threw touchdown passes of 35 yards to Jeff King and 15 yards to Jared Mazzetta, and Brandon Pace added field goals of 27 and 34 yards.

See summary on Page 39.

NFC North foes aim to stop free fall

BY DAVE CAMPBELL

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Vikings had another late October hold on the NFC North. Following three straight losses, their control over the division has disappeared much faster than during last season's collapse.

"Better get a grip, guys. The scramble is on."

"Four out of our last seven games are NFC North games," coach Mike Tice said, "so there's your season."

First up, Sunday at the Metrodome, is Detroit, a team also stuck in a three-game skid with a similar single-minded focus this week. "Everything we talk and preach around here is, 'Win the division, win the division, win the division,'" coach Steve Mariucci said. "That's where our focus needs to lie. We're right in the thick of it."

The Vikings, after consecutive three-point losses at Indianapolis and Green Bay, are tied with the Packers at 5-4. The Lions and Bears are 4-5.

Detroit also has four division games left, and Green Bay and Chicago have three each. Most people predicted a two-team race like the Packers and Vikings put on last year. But an excellent turnover differential and the emergence of rookie wide receiver Roy Williams helped propel the Lions to a 4-2 record. And a resurgent defense, boosted by a reli-



Game time is Japan and Korea Standard. Guam is one hour ahead; Singapore and Hong Kong are one hour behind.

able running game, has led the Bears to three straight wins.

"It's bound to be an interesting stretch run."

"That's our first goal, to be NFC North champions," Minnesota's Daunte Culpepper said.

The Vikings have to get their defense fixed for that to happen. Randy Moss, who will mostly sit out again with a slow-healing hamstring strain, has certainly been missed during this slump.

But Culpepper has been nearly flawless over the past two weeks with 532 yards passing, five touchdowns and no turnovers — watching fourth-quarter comebacks fall just short on the road.

"The offense was clicking on all cylinders," running back Onterio Smith said. "We feel that if we would've gotten the ball again in either of those last two games, we would've won 'em."

They would've won 'em if their opponent didn't score so much,

too. Wary from facing Edgerrin James, Peyton Manning, Adrian Green and Brett Favre, Minnesota shouldn't have as difficult a time stopping Detroit's scuffling quarterback, Joey Harrington.

He started strong this season, but an 11-for-33, 121-yard interception, no-touchdown performance in an overtime loss at Jacksonville last week cost Harrington's worst of 2004. Backup Mike McMahon has taken more snaps in practice this week, and Manning didn't exactly offer a hearty endorsement when he said if Harrington's job was secure.

"Anyone someone comes and threatens to take over what I possess is mine and tries to take something from me, I'm going to fight back," Harrington said. "I know I've had two sub-par games in a row, and I want to bounce back just as badly, if not more than anybody on this team."

In his defense, the Lions have a league-low average of 75.7 yards rushing per game. Sprained ankles suffered by Williams and rookie running back Kevin Jones didn't help, and Detroit's backs and tight ends have had trouble catching the ball.

Including Detroit, four of Minnesota's seven seasons have been ranked 26th or lower in total offense. Could that be the cure?

"We can't take anyone lightly," cornerback Daryl Johnston said. "They have some good weapons over there. ... We definitely have a challenge."

No. 5 Syracuse recovers vs. Mississippi St.



Syracuse's Hakim Warrick, left, looks to shoot against Mississippi State's Lawrence Roberts, right and Wesley Morgan, center, Thursday.

Orange hold off Bulldogs in Coaches vs. Cancer semis

BY JIM O'CONNELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Syracuse and Mississippi State both struggled in the first half. Hakim Warrick made sure Syracuse had a much better final 20 minutes.

Warrick scored 17 of his 21 points in the second half and the fifth-ranked Orange beat No. 12 Mississippi State 71-58 Thursday night in the semifinals of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

"We got him the ball. We made a conscious effort to get him the ball," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said of the difference in Warrick in the two halves. "We showed patience and got much better shots."

Syracuse (3-0) will play No. 24 Memphis on Friday night in the championship game at Madison Square Garden. The Tigers (3-0) beat Saint Mary's 81-66 in the other semifinal.

Syracuse and Mississippi State (2-1) were tied 25-25 at halftime. Syracuse had the better shooting half, hitting 29.4 percent to the Bulldogs' 26.5. The Orange were 1-for-8 from three-point range, Mississippi State was 1-for-9.

The matchup of preseason All-Americans was even, too, and very good. Warrick had four points on 2-for-5 shooting and Lawrence Roberts of the Bulldogs, playing for the first time this season, had two points and missed all five of his shots.

Warrick, a 6-foot-8 senior, had six points in Syracuse's 11-0 run to open the second half and the Orange stayed about that far in front the rest of the way.

"I think once we all got going it was really us," Warrick said. "That's what we got me going."

Gerry McNamara missed his first six three-point

attempts before hitting two around a dunk by Warrick on his alley-oop pass to give the Orange a 56-43 lead with 9:18 to play.

Warrick had 10 rebounds and McNamara finished with nine points and seven assists for the Orange, who went 21-for-31 from the field in the second half (67.7 percent).

"I thought we executed about as well as we could in the second half," Boeheim said. "What did we shoot? Sixty-seven percent. Yeah, that's good. We executed better, got good movement and better shot selection."

Roberts, the Southeastern Conference player of the year last season, missed the Bulldogs' opener because of an NCAA suspension over payment to an NBA pre-draft workout. He missed the second round recovering from a broken nose in practice last week.

Playing with a face mask, Roberts finished with nine points and 12 rebounds. He was 2-for-9 from the field and never looked comfortable in his 28 minutes.

"We knew he would play we just didn't know how much," Mississippi State coach Rick Stansbury said of Roberts. "He hasn't practiced and we couldn't expect that much out of him, but he still gave us 12 rebounds. It's his presence out there that helps the team. He missed some chippies he normally makes. Unfortunately for us he had to play that much tonight."

Shane Power had 18 points for Mississippi State, which shot 31.3 percent for the game (20-for-64).

"It was that first 4, 5 minutes of the second half. That was where we got Stansbury said, 'In the first half we did a good job on Warrick and McNamara. Then Warrick changed the emotion and energy level of their team and we didn't show a lot of poise.'"

No. 24 Memphis ends St. Mary's tournament run

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rodney Carney took some time to answer John Calipari's question.

"Coach called me over the summer and asked me if I was working hard," Carney said. "I guess I showed him what I did all through the summer tonight."

The junior forward scored a career-high 33 points and Memphis ended the surprising tournament run of Saint Mary's with an 81-66 victory Thursday night in the semifinals of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

The 24th-ranked Tigers (3-0) will face No. 5 for the title on Friday night.

The 6-foot-7 Carney had 20 points in the first half as Memphis took a 42-29 lead. His three-pointer started a 10-0 run that broke a 17-all tie and he



scored six points in a 9-0 run that gave the Tigers a 38-22 lead with 3:17 left in the half.

"He's put in a lot and all of a sudden on national TV he gets back a lot," Calipari said.

Saint Mary's (2-1), which beat California in the quarterfinals, was the lone mid-major in the field of 16 to reach the semifinals at Madison Square Garden, and the Gaels started as if another upset was possible.

Daniel Kickert scored 12 of their first 14 points in the opening four minutes, but Memphis used several defenders on him as Saint Mary's continued to run its

spread offense. He finished the half with 15 points.

The Gaels pulled to 64-56 on five straight points by Kickert with 7:18 to play. Carney and Jeremy Hunt then hit consecutive three-pointers to extend the lead to 14.

"We didn't leave him on pick and rolls in the second half," Calipari said of the defensive job on Kickert. "They may miss a layup, but he isn't going to miss a three. He is a really good player."

Carney's previous career high was 26 points last season against South Carolina. He finished 13-for-20 from the field, including 3-for-3 on threes, and had nine rebounds.

He also impressed Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennett.

"He looked like a pro tonight. Shooting threes, taking it to the

hole," Bennett said. "We played decent. We could have played better. Memphis had a lot to do with that. They are difficult to defend. The fact we didn't do a good job on Carney was the difference in the game. Other than that, I thought it was a close game."

"I was pleased. We did get something out of this game because of the level of competition that we are playing against."

Sean Banks, one of the most effective defenders against the 6-10 Kickert, added 18 points for Memphis, while freshman Joey Dorsney had 10 points and eight rebounds. The Tigers shot 50.8 percent from the field (32-for-63).

"We haven't even dug into our talent yet. We need to get the chemistry down," Carney said. "Once we get that down, in my opinion, we'll be unstoppable."

No. 2 Wake Forest St. 17, Virginia Commonwealth 67: Chris Paul scored 16 points despite taking just three shots from the field to help host Wake Forest win in the Preseason NIT.

Paul hit 14 of 15 free throws

and had five assists for the Demon Deacons (2-0), who head to New York for next week's semifinal matchup with Providence.

Justin Gray added 14 points and was one of five Wake Forest players to play in the semifinals.

Alexander Harper led the Rams (1-1) with 17 points. The game was a rematch of last year's first-round NCAA tournament game, won by Wake Forest 79-78. In that game, the Rams were tied going into the final 90 seconds before Paul made several plays to help the Demon Deacons survive.

No. 10 Arizona 83, Wright St. 66: At Tucson, Ariz., Salim Stoudamire scored 24 points, including 6-for-9 shooting on three-pointers, and Arizona beat Wright State in the second round of the Preseason NIT.

The Wildcats (2-0) play Michigan in the semifinals next Wednesday in New York. Channing Frye had 13 points for Arizona.

No. 19 N.C. State 71, Elon 45: At Raleigh, N.C., Julius Hodge scored 21 points on his 21st birthday to join an exclusive group of Atlantic Coast Conference players, leading North Carolina State past Elon in the semifinals of the BCA Invitational. The Wolfpack (2-0) advanced to play East Carolina for the championship.

Hodge now has 1,505 points and 303 assists in his career, becoming the 18th player in the 52-year history of the ACC to record at least 1,500 points, 500 rebounds and 300 assists. Anthony Grundy is the only other N.C. State player to reach those totals.

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Nextel Cup leader Busch will start season finale from pole

BY MIKE HARRIS

The Associated Press

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Presure? What pressure?

Kurt Busch, the first in the NASCAR Nextel Cup points, waited out 54 other drivers Friday, then won the pole for the season-ending Ford 400, which will determine the 2004 champion.

Busch goes into Sunday's race at the front of the closest five-man championship battle in NASCAR history, leading runner-up Jimmie Johnson by just 18 points, with Jeff Gordon, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Mark Martin all within 82 points of the top spot.

Busch, who isn't known as a good qualifier, grinned and asked: "Is this Friday? I never knew we could do things like this on Friday."

It's the second week in a row that the four-year cup driver

will start from the top qualifying spot, though last week's pole was handed to him as the points leader when time trials were run at Darlington. This one is the first pole Busch has won on the track since taking the top spot here in November 2002.

He went on to win that race, although the 1½-mile track at Homestead-Miami Speedway has since been reconfigured, with more banking in the turns.

Busch turned a lap of 179.319 mph Friday, easily beating out the 179.307 of Greg Biffle for the third pole of his career.

"It was just one of those laps," Busch said. "It's really been a storybook effort so far in this championship season."

Johnson came to Homestead — the last race in NASCAR's new 10-man, 10-race playoff-style championship — with a ton of momentum, having won four of the last five races to come from far

off the pace and give himself a shot to win the title. But his qualifying effort Friday took away some of the steam he had built up.

While the other contenders qualified among the top 16, Johnson went out early and had a disastrous lap at 175.029. As driver after driver went around the track, Johnson and his No. 48 team watched their position drop lower and lower, finally stopping at 39th, which is where he will start in the 43-car field. It's his worst qualifying effort since starting 34th on the road course in Sonoma, Calif., in June.

Johnson didn't wait to see the final result. His team covered his car with a tarp and he hurried out of the garage.

Four-time series champion Gordon, Johnson's teammate and 21 points behind Busch, will start fifth Sunday, with fourth-place Earnhardt, 72 points out, starting 16th and Martin, 82 points behind, in the 11th spot.

Ford 400 lineup

NASCAR Nextel Cup
After Friday qualifying; race Sunday
at Homestead-Miami Speedway
Homestead, Fla.
Lap length: 1.5 miles

1. (37) Kurt Busch, Ford, 179.319 mph.
2. (36) Greg Biffle, Ford, 179.307.
3. (22) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 178.903.
4. (9) Kasey Kahne, Dodge, 178.891.
5. (40) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 178.719.
6. (18) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 178.542.
7. (21) Ricky Rudd, Ford, 178.026.
8. (20) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 177.866.
9. (29) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 177.807.
10. (23) Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 177.759.
11. (6) Mark Martin, Ford, 177.692.
12. (30) Mike Bliss, Chevrolet, 177.485.
13. (23) Shane Bieber, Dodge, 177.421.
14. (25) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 177.218.
15. (38) Elliott Sauter, Ford, 177.194.
16. (8) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 177.140.
17. (17) Brendan Gaughan, Dodge, 177.067.
18. (42) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 176.981.
19. (01) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 176.922.
20. (32) Scott Wimmer, Dodge, 176.869.
21. (30) Carl Edwards, Ford, 176.856.
22. (14) John Andretti, Ford, 176.846.
23. (15) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 176.849.
24. (10) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet, 176.465.
25. (60) Travis Kvieci, Dodge, 176.225.
26. (38) Dale Jarrett, Ford, 176.085.
27. (41) Rusty Wallace, Chevrolet, 176.062.
28. (12) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Chevrolet, 175.917.
29. (17) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 175.764.
30. (42) Jeff Green, Ford, 175.629.
31. (26) Boris Said, Chevrolet, 175.518.
32. (31) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 175.518.
33. (13) Greg Sacks, Dodge, 175.313.
34. (11) Martin Truex Jr., Chevrolet, 175.256.
35. (02) Hermie Sadler, Chevrolet, 175.245.
36. (00) Kenny Wallace, Chevrolet, 175.046.
37. (4) Sterling Marlin, Dodge, 175.041.
38. (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, Provisional.
39. (42) Jeff Burton, Chevrolet, Provisional.
40. (21) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, Provisional.
41. (52) Terry Labonte, Chevrolet, Provisional.
42. (48) Ken Schrader, Dodge, Provisional.

Craven gets new ride in Roush truck

The Associated Press

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Ricky Craven's new ride has four wheels and a bed. And it reaches speeds upward of 180 mph.

Craven has reached an agreement to drive the No. 50 Craftsman Truck Series Ford for Roush Racing next year. The other Roush driver will be American Speed Association driver Todd Kluge.

Craven, 38, of Newburgh, Maine, made his truck series debut in September at the New Hampshire International Speedway. He wrecked on Lap 82 but left the race saying it was the most fun he'd had all year.

"I am looking forward to racing in the Craftsman Truck Series since the competition just gets better every year," he said Friday.

The 1995 Nextel Cup Rookie of the Year began the season behind the wheel of the No. 32 Tide car. But he parted with PPI Motorsports owner Cal Wells, severing a relationship he had with the team since 2001.

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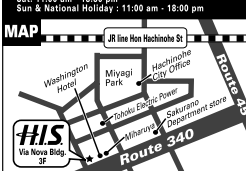
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Woods leading Dunlop Phoenix

The Associated Press

MIYAZAKI, Japan — Tiger Woods held a three-shot lead halfway through the Dunlop Phoenix, hoping to end a drought that has left him without a title since February.

Woods shot a 3-under 67 Friday that gave him a score of 8-under 132 after two rounds in the \$1.89 million event, the richest on the Japanese tour. Kaname Yokoo of Japan also shot a 67 for 135.

Christian Pena of the United States had the day's best round at 63 and was at 136.

Woods, winner of eight major titles, lost his No. 1 ranking to Vijay Singh two months ago. His victory this year was in the Match Play Championship in late February.

Woods renewed his criticism of the PGA of America for its decision to pass over friend Mark O'Meara as captain of the 2006 Ryder Cup team. Tom Lehman was chosen a few weeks ago.

"He is a good choice," Woods said. "But he would have been a good choice for America four years from now. Timing wise, I just thought this was Mark's only chance."

The next Ryder Cup matches are in Ireland, and Woods thought O'Meara should have been selected because of his Irish heritage.

Lehman was not concerned about Woods' comments.

"I don't want to cause any problems; this is not an issue," Leh-

Golf roundup

man said after an opening-round 68 Thursday in the Callaway Golf Pebble Beach Invitational.

"Tiger and I get along just fine," said Lehman. "He's upset with the PGA of America that his buddy is not the captain. And when I see him I will say 'I understand.' I don't take it personally."

England's Casey, Donald five strokes ahead in World Cup

SEVILLE, Spain — Englishmen Paul Casey and Luke Donald surged to a five-stroke lead in the second round of the team World Cup on Friday after shooting an 8-under-par 64.

The pair has a total of 19-under 125. Austrians Martin Wiegele and Markus Brier carded a 70, with a half dozen teams six strokes behind the leaders: South Africa (65), Sweden (67), Spain (68), Japan (69), Ireland (71) and the United States (67).

Scott Verplank and Bob Tway are competing for the Americans.

Sorenstam takes three-shot lead in ADT Championship

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Annika Sorenstam pulled away with back-to-back birdies late in the second round of the ADT Championship on Friday for a 4-under 68 that set the 36-hole record at Trump International.

Sorenstam, who was at 10-under 134, took a three-shot lead over Karrie Webb, Laura Diaz and Cristie Kerr.

Three share lead in Pebble Beach Invitational

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Two-time PGA Tour winner Olin Browne, Kelli Kuehne of the LPGA and two-time collegiate champion JJ Jakovac shot 6-under 66s Thursday to share the lead after the first round of the Pebble Beach Invitational.

International team takes lead over Americans in UBS Cup

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C. — An international team took a 3½ to 2½ lead over the United States on Friday after the first round of the \$3 million UBS Cup, the Ryder Cup-style competition the Americans have never lost.

In its fourth year, the match-play competition features teams of 40-and-older players, one from the United States and one from the rest of the world.

The Rest of the World team took the lead when Bernhard Langer and Colin Montgomerie won their match. After falling behind by two after two holes, the pair birdied the eighth, ninth and 10th to pull back into contention.

They took a 1-up victory over Tom Kite and Raymond Floyd in a match tied going into the 18th hole. The Americans lost by bogeying the hole.

No NHL Draft until new labor agreement reached

The Associated Press

TORONTO — There won't be an NHL entry draft before a collective bargaining agreement is reached with the players' association, the director of the league's scouting department said.

The lockout has already wiped out over 240 games, plus the All-Star weekend, and it appears there won't be any NHL hockey before January — if at all this season. The sides haven't met since Sept. 9 and no negotiations have been scheduled.

If the season goes by the boards, next June's draft — scheduled to be held in Ottawa — would be the next major event to be lost. The draft can't be legally conducted without a collective bargaining agreement.

Nebraska lineman charged with assault against OU student

NORMAN, Okla. — Nebraska offensive lineman Darren DeLone was charged with aggravated assault and battery for injuring a member of Oklahoma's spirit group before last week's Oklahoma-Nebraska game.

An arrest warrant was issued Friday for DeLone, accused of driving his helmet into the face of Oklahoma student Adam Merritt, the Cleveland County district attorney's office said.

The charge against DeLone carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison.

Sports briefs

Nebraska spokeswoman Chris Anderson said the university would have no comment.

Merritt, 19, a member of the spirit group, Ruf/Neks, lost two teeth in the encounter.

The University of Oklahoma Police Department recommended prosecution of DeLone and a second Nebraska player, Wali Muhammad, but Cleveland County District Attorney Tim Kuykendall said there was not enough evidence to file charges against Muhammad.

Members of the Ruf/Neks spirit group were in their usual position near the north end zone of Owen Field before the game.

Students in the group typically shoot pot guns and heckle opposing teams.

Kuykendall said witnesses reported that DeLone pointed to the Ruf/Neks and ran his thumb across his throat in a threatening motion before he and Muhammad executed a drill that caused them to run toward the group.

"DeLone hit the victim 12 feet outside the playing field with such force that it sent Merritt back into a brick retaining wall and metal gate," Kuykendall said.

DeLone, a 6-foot-5, 315-pound senior, was not detained by campus police, and played in last week's 30-3 loss to Oklahoma.

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Angels trade troubled outfielder Guillen to Expos

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Anaheim Angels traded troubled outfielder Jose Guillen to the Washington-Buena Vista and prospect Maicer Izturis.

"It was the best thing that could have happened, taking into consideration the way things ended last season between us," Guillen told the AP from his home in Miami. "I'm excited to be a part of the Expos and part of history, now that we'll play in the U.S. capital."



Guillen

Guillen was suspended for the last eight games of the regular season and dropped from Anaheim's playoff roster after he threw a tantrum in the dugout and clubhouse when he was removed for a pinch-runner on Sept. 25. In a grievance settlement, he agreed to allow the Angels to withhold two days' pay.

Guillen hit .294 with 29 homers and a career-high 104 RBIs in 2004. He is owed \$3.5 million next season.

Angels General Manager Bill Stoneman told Guillen of the trade.

"I don't have any hard feelings



Briefs

toward Anaheim," Guillen said.

Rivera, acquired by Montreal from the New York Yankees in the Nick Johnson trade last December, hit .307 for the Expos with 12 homers and 49 RBIs in his first full major league season.

Izturis, the younger brother of Los Angeles Dodgers shortstop Cesar Izturis, hit .338 with 65 runs, 19 doubles, three homers and 36 RBIs for Triple-A Edmonton. He made his major league debut Aug. 27 and batted .206 with five doubles, two triples and four RBIs in 107 at-bats with Montreal.

New Expos General Manager Jim Bowden has been busy this week. He earlier agreed to a \$16.8 million, four-year contract with shortstop Cristian Guzman, and a \$6.2 million, two-year deal with third baseman Vinny Castilla.

Robinson agrees to one-year deal to remain Expos manager

WASHINGTON — Frank Robinson has agreed to a one-year contract to return as manager of the Expos, although whether he actually manages the team next year will hinge on the pace of the team's sale and the whim of the new owners.

Thursday's announcement had been expected. General Manager Jim Bowden had said he planned

to keep Robinson, and the two have been working together to formulate the team's offseason strategy regarding possible trades and the signing of free agents.

Robinson has managed the Expos since the team was purchased by the 29 other major league teams in 2002. Despite a severely limited player payroll, the club went \$3.79 in each of his first two seasons before slipping to \$7.95 in 2004.

Baseball has announced plans to move the Expos from Montreal to Washington, with the move contingent upon approval of the owners and the passage of a stadium financing package by the District of Columbia Council. The owners postponed a planned vote Thursday, although commissioner Bud Selig said he expects the move to be approved by Dec. 6. The D.C. Council has scheduled its first vote on the stadium package on Nov. 30.

Baseball has also put the team up for sale, although the process is expected to take several months. Bowden has said he considers his job to be an interim position until new owners take over.

Robinson could meet a similar fate, although it would be more difficult to replace him if the sale is completed after the start of the season.

Robinson's 913 victories rank seventh among active managers. He became baseball's first black manager in 1974 and has also managed in Cleveland, San Fran-

cisco and Baltimore.

6-foot-10 pitcher Young chooses Rangers over NBA

ARLINGTON, Texas — Chris Young never expected to have to choose again between baseball and basketball. The Texas Rangers helped make it an easy decision for the 6-foot-10 pitcher.

Young, approached recently by the Sacramento Kings about playing in the NBA, agreed Friday to a \$1.5 million, three-year contract with the Rangers, a deal that includes a team option for 2008.

The 25-year-old right-hander was traded from Montreal to the Rangers at the end of spring training, and made his major league debut Aug. 24. Young went 3-2 with a 4.71 ERA in seven starts and got his first win at Fenway Park on Sept. 4, when he stopped Boston's 10-game winning streak.

D-backs' Johnson awaiting word on possible trades

FOUNTAIN HILLS, Ariz. — Randy Johnson is waiting for the Arizona Diamondbacks to come to him with specific trade possibilities, with his only firm stipulation being that the new team be a contender, one of his agents said Friday.

Johnson returned this week from a tour of Japan by major league players for his annual Randy Johnson Invitational golf tournament to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Arizona. But Johnson wouldn't talk about

any baseball issues, referring all questions to agent Alan Nero, who also was at the tournament.

"Most of Randy's desire to leave is not because he doesn't want to be a Diamondback," Nero said. "It's because at this stage of his career he's got some milestones that he'd like to achieve and he's a competitor. It's hard to work as hard as you work at age 40 (actually 41) and come to the yard and not feel like you have the very best possibility of competing."

Johnson will earn \$16 million next season, the final year of his contract with Arizona, and the Diamondbacks are listening to offers. The New York Yankees head the list of teams with interest, but the Anaheim Angels and Chicago White Sox also could be possibilities. Johnson has the right to veto any trade.

Mariners trade pitcher Williams to Padres

SEATTLE — The Seattle Mariners traded left-handed pitcher Randy Williams to the San Diego Padres on Friday for infielder Billy Hogen.

The 26-year-old Williams was 7-2 for Triple-A Tacoma and made six relief appearances with Seattle after being called up in September.

Hogan, 21, had a combined 219 batting average in 74 games last season for minor league teams in Fort Wayne, Ind., and Eugene, Ore.

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SPORTS

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Virginia Tech quarterback Bryan Randall (3) shed the attempted tackle of Maryland's Dominique Foxworth (6) during the Hokies' 55-6 victory Thursday in Blacksburg, Va. Virginia Tech will win the ACC title with victories over Virginia and Miami in its final two regular-season games.

Va. Tech rolls on the day Beamer's mother dies

BY HANK KURZ JR.
The Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Frank Beamer's mother would have been proud.

On the day she died, Beamer and Virginia Tech moved one step closer to a Bowl Championship Series berth Thursday night by routing Maryland 55-6.

"I had my mind in the game. That's what my mom taught me," Beamer said, dispelling the idea that his sadness and loss hampered his focus.

Besides, he added, she'd sent word that he was to coach.

"We weren't sure she was going to make it through the night before the North Carolina game, and I went by to see her in the hospital," Beamer said, recalling the No. 15 Hokies' game in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Nov. 6.

"Then when I left, she told my brother and sisters that if anything happened to her, to make sure to tell me to coach in that North Carolina game and to win the ballgame. That kind of tells you about my mom."

Herma Beamer, 86, had suffered from heart problems and died in her sleep overnight at her home in Fancy Gap.

"Really, it's a blessing that she died peacefully," Beamer said.



Virginia Tech linebacker Arron Rouse (36) stops Maryland tailback Mario Merrills (8). The Terrapins (4-6) committed five turnovers, rushed for just 56 yards and will not play in a bowl game for the first time in three years.

The coach's loss was felt by the whole team, quarterback Bryan Randall said, and motivated them to win for Beamer and his mom, and to stay in control of their drive to win the ACC by winning their last three games.

"It was special for him to be out here coaching us in a time like this," Randall said after running for one touchdown and throwing for two. "We just wanted to make it special for him and get him a win."

They wasted no time, turning two turnovers into short touchdown drives in the first four minutes, leading 41-3 at halftime and not letting up.

"I appreciate their efforts," Beamer said. "They presented me and my mom with a game ball back there. I feel good about what they did tonight."

The victory was the sixth in a row for Virginia Tech (8-2, 5-1), which can win the ACC by beating No. 18 Virginia next weekend and No. 12 Miami, its rival from the Big East, in the Orange Bowl on Dec. 4.

After a season full of games that went down to the final quarter, the Hokies used a vintage display of playmaking defense and opportunistic offense to make this one easy. They gained just 376 yards, but outruined the Terps 239-56 and held them to 197 yards overall.

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South Carolina's
Holtz to step
down after season
and Spurrier
appears poised
to replace him

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Manning draws a
tough assignment
in his first
NFL start

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Second-half surge
leads fifth-ranked
Syracuse over
No. 12 Miss. St.;
Memphis ends
St. Mary's joyride

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Points leader Busch wins pole in Nextel Cup finale

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